

## BARNSTORMING



President Barack Obama speaks at the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in Keene, Calif.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

## Obama honors Cesar Chavez; rallies faithful

**JULIE PACE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** As

the White House race shows signs of tightening nationally, President Barack Obama's campaign is banking on a massive get-out-the-vote operation and state-by-state shades of economic improvement to maintain its apparent polling edge in battlegrounds from Ohio to Virginia. Republican Mitt Romney, re-energized by

last week's debate, is flashing new confidence on the campaign trail and pressing toward the political center on both foreign and domestic issues. But aides have outlined no clear path to winning the 270 Electoral College votes required to gain the White House.

"Things are going pretty good," the usually cautious Romney said Monday with a smile. Among Democrats, the swagger of the previous few weeks has all but van-

ished since the debate.

"Ultimately this is a tight race, and it's going to remain a tight race until the end," said Bill Burton, who runs Priorities USA Action, a pro-Obama super political action committee.

Indeed, one month from Election Day, polls show a close race. And with millions of Americans already voting and the potential for game-changing moments diminishing, the candidates have little room for

error as they seek to sway a narrow swath of undecided voters.

Obama aides acknowledge Romney's strong turn on the debate stage helped him shift gears from a rocky September. But they also argue that Romney's momentum was arrested somewhat by a Friday jobs report showing the unemployment rate declined to 7.8 percent, the lowest level of Obama's presidency.

They say the president was thrown during the debate by what they call Romney's willingness to abandon his previous positions, including his \$5 trillion tax cut proposal. In the next debate — and in television advertisements before then — the Democrat and his aides are expected to accuse Romney of lying about his own plans.

**Continued on Page 4**

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## Venezuela:

# Re-elected Chavez faces likely economic reckoning

FRANK BAJAK

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS,

Venezuela

(AP) — During his re-election campaign, President Hugo Chavez promised to deepen the “21st century socialism” that has meant an ever-greater state role in the economy. That message won him a surprising 11-percentage point win in what many had thought would be a tight race.

Still, he's set to start a fourth presidential term under challenging economic circumstances. The government's free-spending ways, bankrolling the generous social programs that aided his re-election, may be seriously crimped.

Chavez faces immediate economic time bombs beginning with a rapidly expanding public debt, one of Latin America's highest inflation rates and a weakening currency.

Many economists believe Chavez will have no choice but to devalue the currency, the bolivar, by about half early next year at the latest. That will make the money in people's pockets suddenly worth a lot less and likely drive inflation while putting imported consumer goods out of reach for poorer Venezuelans.

“He's going to have to deal with some very basic, mundane capitalist things, like reducing inflation,” which stands at 18 percent, said Eduardo Gamarra, a Latin American studies professor at Florida International University in Miami.

Price controls and government subsidies for basic foodstuffs have eased inflationary pressures but a major devaluation would drive prices higher and could worsen scarcities,

economist at Roubini Global Economics in New York.

“We think the outlook for the short term is very bleak,” he said, with economic growth at about 2 percent next year and “inflation

Chavez from the fallout of his confrontational policies, including a drop in foreign investment.

But economist David Rees of London-based Capital Economics said the gov-

Russell Dallen, a managing partner of the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets.

The bonds fell in value after Chavez defeated Henrique Capriles, who won 44 percent of the vote, giving the incumbent his smallest margin of victory ever in a presidential election.

The government has more than tripled its public foreign debt from \$24.2 billion when Chavez took office to \$88.7 billion in the first quarter of this year. Much of that foreign money has come from China, which has lent Venezuela more than \$36 billion in exchange for oil shipments.

Even as he celebrated victory before thousands of jubilant supporters early Monday, Chavez appeared to acknowledge he has let down some Venezuelans. People are upset by a soaring homicide rate, power outages and crumbling infrastructure.

“I pledge to you, I repeat, to every day be a better president than I've been,” he said, while also promising greater effectiveness and efficiency from a government whose payroll is bloated by patronage.

The 58-year-old leader has said tests show he is cancer-free, but his illness has forced him to slow his pace and cut back on his frenetic days of late-night speeches and Cabinet meetings. He's endured two rounds of surgery since June 2011 to remove tumors from his pelvic region as well as chemotherapy and radiation treatment. □



Homeless Efrain Juanipas, 37, rests on a makeshift bed made from a cardboard box next to graffiti that reads in English: “We're with Chavez,” in reference to Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. Chavez won re-election and a new endorsement of his socialist project Sunday, surviving his closest race yet after a bitter campaign against opposition candidate Henrique Capriles.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

economists say.

“Investment in social issues is great, but he needs to do other things as well that are going to make that economy more productive,” said Gamarra.

Venezuela's economy grew by 5 percent this year but only because of government spending, primarily on raising salaries for many of the country's at least 2.4 million public employees and paying for thousands of new homes that Chavez is giving away, said Joao Pedro Ribeiro, an

spiking to 30 percent.”

The black market value of the Venezuelan bolivar, whose official value is set by the government, was double the official rate in July. It is now triple the official rate.

At the heart of Chavez's economic challenges is declining productivity in the oil industry, which accounts for 95 percent of exports and funds Chavez's social programs. Governing the country with the world's largest proven oil reserves has so far insulated

government has relatively few dollars left, “having utilized them to fund an import binge ahead of the ballot. That will add to the reduction in imports and increase in shortages.”

Some experts say oil production has stagnated due to insufficient investment and management problems in the state-run oil company.

One measure of investor confidence in Venezuela, the price of its bonds, took a hit Monday as they fell 5 percent to 7 percent, said



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## Jews and Muslims warning of anti-Semitism in France

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**PARIS** — Jewish and Muslim leaders here warned Monday of rising anti-Semitism among young Muslims, two days after the police arrested 11 men and fatally shot one in raids in a handful of cities aimed at young radical French Muslims. President Francois Hollande met with Jewish and Muslim leaders Sunday and promised tighter security at Jewish religious sites. He said a new law would soon make it a crime to travel to militant training camps. "Nothing will be tolerated; nothing should happen," Hollande said in a statement. "Any act, any remark will be prosecuted with the greatest firmness." News of the raids added to the anxieties of France's Jewish and Muslim populations, which were unnerved by the killings in March of three French service members, a rabbi and three Jewish children in the Toulouse region by a French Muslim who had trained with Islamic militants in Pakistan. Muslim and Jewish spokesmen say they worry about the domestic expansion of radical Islam. "We must take the measure of this type of ideology," Richard Prasquier, the head of Crif, a major Jewish organization in France, told France Inter radio on Monday. "I say that radical Islamism is Nazi ideology." Dalil Boubakeur, the rector of the Grande Mosquee in

Paris, also warned of radicalism, but said those arrested did not represent Muslims as a whole. The raids took place near Paris and in Nice, Cannes and Strasbourg, where police officers killed Jeremie Louis-Sidney, 33, after he fired on them with a .357 Magnum pistol when they entered the apartment he was in. His DNA was found on the remnants of a small grenade that was thrown into the kosher market in Sarcelles, a suburb of Paris, last month. The police described him as a French-born drug dealer who had become radicalized in prison and converted to Islam there. They said he had been under surveillance for months. On Monday, French newspapers similarly described the 11 suspects as young men born in France who had adopted a radical form of Islam, usually after getting into trouble with the law. An editorial in the daily newspaper Liberation called them "the lost children of the lost territories of the republic for whom the Jew is the enemy." In another newspaper, Le Figaro, a former anti-terrorism judge, Jean-Louis Brugiere, wrote: "In this case, the first elements collected seem to show that there is a phenomenon of self-radicalization that expanded in a rather worrisome way. Many of them haven't traveled to training camps in Afghanistan." □

## State Dept had extended US security team in Libya

**LARRY MARGASAK**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. embassy in Tripoli requested — and received — a four-month extension of a 16-member security team, a February request

Oversight and Government Reform Committee is preparing for a hearing Wednesday on whether the State Department refused repeated requests for more security in Benghazi. The memo was ob-

A senior State Department official said that after the team remained through August, it was replaced by an equal number of personnel with the same skill sets.

Had the security support team still been in Tripoli at the time of the attack in Benghazi, it wouldn't have made any difference, said the official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to be quoted on the subject. "They had nothing to do with Benghazi, zero," the official said. "They were based in Tripoli and they were not a quick reaction force jetting around the country."

While the February memo referred to conditions in Tripoli, the description also generally described the security situation in Libya.

"Overall security conditions continue to be unpredictable, with large numbers of armed groups and individuals not under control of the central government, and frequent clashes in Tripoli and other major population centers," the memo said.

The memo added, "Until these militias are off the streets and a strong national police force is established, we will not have a reliable host government partner that is capable of responding to the embassy's security needs." □



**Libyans walk on the grounds of the gutted U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, where an attack killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. The U.S. embassy in Tripoli requested — and received — a four-month extension of a 16-member security team, a February request that showed just how dangerous the situation in Libya had become for American diplomats.**

(AP Photo/Ibrahim Alaguri)

that showed just how dangerous the situation in Libya had become for American diplomats. The commander of the security team, Lt. Col. Andrew Wood, told ABC News that slain U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens had wanted the team to stay even longer — past the end of its extended deployment in August. But the State Department said a request for a second extension was never made. Stevens and three other Americans were killed in an attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya on Sept. 11. The House

tained from a government official who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to release the document.

The State Department will send two officials to testify at the hearing, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has named an agency review board to determine whether security was lax.

The FBI also is investigating the attacks, which Obama administration officials initially described as a spontaneous protest but now acknowledge was an act of terrorism.

Continued from front

Romney's team, meanwhile, is tempering expectations that tightening national polls will translate into success on the ground in the key states most likely to decide the race. Things may be moving in the right direction, they say, but significant work remains. Still, they're seeking to paint Obama's campaign as desperate. "It seems pretty clear that their new strategy is basically just call us liars, to descend down into a mud pit and hopefully, with enough mudslinging back and forth and distortion, people will get demoralized and they can win by default," said

day, Romney cast himself as a statesman who would be part of a long, bipartisan tradition of American leadership in the world. He said the U.S. should use its power "wisely, with solemnity and without false pride, but also firmly and actively." At the same time, he is moving away from some of the more conservative positions he pressed during the GOP primary. The shift is aimed at appealing to the independents and disaffected members of both parties who could swing the race. He is to deliver at least two more policy speeches in the coming weeks focused on job growth and debt and spending.

the campaign's crucial final weeks. The president has more get-out-the-vote offices than Romney in every competitive state; some offices never closed after the 2008 campaign. Democrats say that network helped them register more than 130,000 new voters — most in battleground states in the week before the debate. There are more registered Democrats than Republicans in nearly every competitive state with party registration, including Florida and Nevada. Romney's team is working hard to chip away at that margin. Democrats have an edge in Iowa, where 62 percent of the 111,000 voters who



President Barack Obama holds a special "Cesar Chavez" red rose as he walks with Cesar Chavez' widow Helen F. Chavez, second from left, Chavez' son Paul F. Chavez, President of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, left, Dolores Huerta, Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers, right and Arturo S. Rodriguez, President, United Farm Workers, as they tour the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument Memorial Garden, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in Keene, Calif.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Romney running mate Paul Ryan. Both Democrats and Republicans say internal campaign surveys following last week's debate show Romney has cut into the lead Obama had built up in many key battleground states. But they say Obama still has an advantage in most of the nine or so critical states, including Ohio and Virginia. A lack of independent polling makes it difficult to know whether that's true. Romney pulled ahead of Obama, 49 to 45 percent nationally, among likely voters according to a Pew Research Center poll conducted after the debate. In a foreign policy speech at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., on Mon-

As Obama's aides worked to poke holes in Romney's foreign policy address, Obama declared a national monument at the Keene, Calif., home of Latino labor leader Cesar Chavez, the United Farmworkers Union founder who died in 1993. Sure to appeal to some Hispanic voters in swing states, Obama's move came at the start of a day in which he also was raising political cash at events in San Francisco, as his campaign closed in on \$1 billion in donations. Democrats said the \$181 million they raised in September would allow Obama to keep advertising heavily on television in all battleground states and fully fund major registration and early voting efforts in

have cast absentee ballots so far were registered Democrats. Twenty-percent were Republicans and 18 percent were unaffiliated, according to the Iowa secretary of state's office. In Ohio, a perennial battleground state, Democrats have an edge over Republicans among people who have requested absentee ballots, though relatively few completed ballots have been submitted. Among the 691,000 people who have requested absentee ballots in 49 of the state's 88 counties, 30 percent are Democrats and 24 percent are Republicans. Forty-six percent are unaffiliated voters, according to data collected by the AP. □

## U.S. Briefs

### Man dies after live roach eating contest in Florida

**DEERFIELD BEACH, Florida (AP)** — Authorities say the winner of a roach-eating contest in South Florida died shortly after downing dozens of the live bugs as well as worms. The grand prize in Friday night's contest was a live python. The Broward County sheriff's office says in a news release that it is waiting for an autopsy to give the official cause of death. However, the news release Monday

says 32-year-old Edward Archbold became ill soon after winning and collapsed in front of the Ben Siegel Reptile Store where the contest was held. The store is in Deerfield Beach about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Miami. Archbold was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police say several contestants ate insects but no one else became ill. □

### Ads preaching tolerance going up in NYC subway

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Advertisements preaching religious tolerance and an end to bigotry are going up in Manhattan subway stations. A court decision forced the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to accept ads implying that enemies of Israel are "savages" and urging subway riders to "support the civilized man" and "Defeat Jihad." Now the MTA has sold additional space to groups that disagree with the mes-

sage of those ads. Ads by a rabbis' group were to go up Monday. They proclaim: "Help stop bigotry against our Muslim neighbors." The Christian group Sojourners is paying for ads, also going up Monday, that say: "Love your Muslim neighbors." Critics say the anti-jihad ads equate all Muslims or Palestinians with savages. But ad sponsor Pamela Geller has insisted the term applies only to people who support violence against Israel. □

### Documents say FBI agent denies paying for any sex

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — An undercover FBI agent denied accusations that he spent U.S. taxpayer dollars on prostitutes in the Philippines for himself and others during an international weapons trafficking probe last year, according to court documents filed Monday. The agent, whose name wasn't made public, said he didn't pay for sex while posing as an arms broker for Mexican drug cartels at two nightclubs. "At no time did I pay to have sex with any employee" of the

two clubs, according to the declaration filed by federal prosecutors. "I was never told by any manager that the bill included prostitution, nor did I ever see prostitution, in any term, listed on any bill." The allegations were made last month by a defense attorney for Sergio Santiago Syjuco, who along with two other Philippine nationals have been indicted for conspiracy in the weapons case and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted. □

### Woman on 'Wife Swap' as teen to plead not guilty

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)** — A former teen pageant princess featured in an eyebrow-raising episode of the TV show "Wife Swap" getting spray-tanned by

her father and pitying the less attractive will plead not guilty this week to charges of prostitution and drug possession, her lawyer said. □



Elizabeth Escalona, 23, enters a courtroom for sentencing, in Dallas, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. Escalona pleaded guilty on July 12, 2012, to injury to a child and is facing up to life in prison. A doctor has testified that the Texas mother glued her 2-year-old daughter's hands to a wall and beat the toddler so badly that she suffered significant brain trauma and bleeding inside her skull. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

## Mom who glued kid's hands to wall faces a life sentence

**NOMAAN MERCHANT**  
**Associated Press**

**DALLAS (AP)** — A woman who super-glued her 2-year-old daughter's hands to a wall also beat the girl so badly that she suffered bleeding on her brain, a doctor testified Monday during the mother's sentencing hearing. Elizabeth Escalona faces up to life in prison after pleading guilty in July to attacking her daughter, Jocelyn Cedillo, last September. Police say the 23-year-old mother attacked the toddler due to potty training problems.

During a sentencing hearing that began Monday, prosecutors presented gruesome photos and details of the attack.

Jocelyn was hospitalized for about one week with injuries that included bleeding on her brain, a fractured rib, severe bruises and others likely caused by direct blows, according to Dr. Amy Barton, a former child abuse specialist at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

"When I think about the time involved in that and what that scene must have looked like, it's overwhelming," Barton said. Police Sr. Cpl. Abel Lopez, who interviewed Escalona

after the attack, showed a bottle of super glue taken out of the family's apartment as well as a section of an apartment wall with Jocelyn's handprints. The sentencing hearing is scheduled to continue Tuesday. Escalona's attorney, Angie N'Duka, said she hadn't decided if her client would take the stand. A state district judge will decide her punishment. In a videotaped interview with Lopez after the attack, Escalona insisted over and over: "I'm taking the blame." □

# US trial reveals details of life with al-Shabab

**AMY FORLITI**

**Associated Press**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — A man who left the United States to join a terror group in Somalia told others he wanted to return to Minneapolis because a friend was sick. Instead, he was somehow talked into staying and ended up killing himself in a suicide bombing months later.

Shirwa Ahmed was among more than 20 young men who left Minnesota since 2007 to join al-Shabab, a group linked to al-Qaida that's at the center of much of the violence in Somalia.

Details about his apparent desire to leave the group in 2008 — and the experiences of others who lived in fear and secrecy while under al-Shabab's thumb — have started to emerge in the trial of another man accused of helping direct men to the cause. Two men have already testified about their time in Somalia, saying they were told to give up their names and travel documents, and one was threatened with beheading if he tried to leave.

"We were scared to death," Salah Osman Ahmed told jurors in the trial of Mahamud Said Omar,



This combination of undated file photos shows, from left: Mohamud Said Omar, Abdifatah Yusuf Isse and Salah Osman Ahmed.

(AP Photos)

who faces five terror-related counts.

Omar's attorneys say he is not guilty. They say the government witnesses, who are awaiting sentencing in their own terror cases, are lying about Omar's role in the pipeline that carried fighters from Minneapolis to Somalia. Eighteen men have been charged in the case, but Omar is the first to go to trial.

Testimony so far in Omar's trial has revealed details about how the network of recruiters worked in Minneapolis, including who might

have taken lead roles in recruiting, who had contacts in Somalia, how they arranged travel, and how they kept the plan a secret. Shirwa Ahmed is believed to be the first U.S. citizen to carry out a suicide bombing. He took part in one of five simultaneous suicide attacks in northern Somalia on Oct. 29, 2008, when he drove an explosive-laden truck into an office of the Puntland Intelligence Service in Bosasso. The five attacks killed at least 22 people, including the suicide bombers. □

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## US meningitis outbreak: 13,000 got steroid shots

**MIKE STOBBE**

**AP Medical Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As many as 13,000 people received steroid shots suspected in a national meningitis outbreak, health officials said Monday. But it's not clear how many are in danger. Officials don't know how many of the shots may have been contaminated with meningitis-causing fungus. And the figure includes not only those who got them in the back for pain — who are most at risk — but also those who got the shots in other places, like knees and shoulders.

There was no breakdown on the number of back injections, said Curtis Allen, a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those injected in joints are not believed to be at risk for meningitis, he said.

The number of people sickened in the outbreak reached 105 on Monday. Deaths rose to eight, with another fatality in Tennessee, the CDC said. Tennessee has the most cases, followed by Michigan, Virginia, Indiana, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina and Ohio.

Investigators suspect a steroid medication made by a specialty pharmacy may be to blame. About 17,700 single-dose vials of the steroid were sent to 23 states. Inspectors found at least one sealed vial contaminated with fungus, and

tests were being done on other vials.

The first known case of the rarely seen fungal meningitis was diagnosed last month in Tennessee. The steroid maker, New England Compounding Center of Framingham, Massachusetts, recalled the drug, and over the weekend recalled everything else it makes.

"While there is no indication at this time of any contamination in other NECC products, this recall is being taken as a precautionary measure," the company said in a statement.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, and a back injection would put any contaminant in more direct contact with that lining.

Symptoms on meningitis include severe headache, nausea, dizziness and fever. The CDC said many of the cases have been mild and some people had strokes. Symptoms have been appearing between one and four weeks after patients got the shots.

A Michigan man whose wife's death was linked to the outbreak said Monday that he, too, was treated with steroids from one of the recalled batches.

"Not only have I lost my wife, but I'm watching the clock to see if anything develops," George Cary said, as friends and family gathered for his wife's wake.

His wife, Lilian, 67, had been ill since late August, but meningitis wasn't detected until Sept. 22, her husband said. She died Sept. 30.

Michigan officials have not released the names of two people who have died in the outbreak in that state, but did say one was a 67-year-old woman. □



**Workers can be seen inside the State Health Operations Center in the Tennessee Department of Health on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 in Nashville. Health officials in Tennessee are reviewing recent deaths that were not initially linked to a deadly fungal meningitis outbreak.**

## 5 employees to return to ministry after suspension

**TULSA, Oklahoma (AP)** —

Five suspended employees of an Oklahoma mega-church charged with waiting more than two weeks to report the alleged rape of a 13-year-old girl will be returning to the ministry by the end of the month with different responsibilities, church leaders said.

Victory Christian Center pastor Bruce Edwards made the announcement during this weekend's services at the 17,000-member worldwide ministry.

Prosecutors allege the 13-year-old girl told employees around Aug. 15 that she had been raped in a stairwell on the church's campus in south Tulsa — but police weren't told until Aug. 30, after church officials said they did their own investigation. Police and church authorities then determined she was among at least four victims of al-



**This handout photo provided by the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office shows Charica Daugherty. Daugherty is among five ministry employees of Victory Christian Center, in Tulsa, Okla., who have been charged by authorities for waiting two weeks before reporting to police the alleged rape of the 13-year-old. Police say the girl is among at least three victims of alleged sex crimes by two former church employees who face criminal charges. Investigators say more could surface.**

leged sex crimes by two former employees.

Among those charged for not reporting the allegations are John and Charica Daugherty, the son and daughter-in-law of ministry co-founder and head pastor Sharon Daugherty. The others are Paul Willemstein, Anna George and Harold "Frank" Sullivan. All five have pleaded not guilty to one misdemeanor count each and are due in court Oct. 31.

A church spokesman said Monday that the two departments in which the five employees worked have been restructured to add a direct supervisor above them.

Former Victory employee Chris Denman was arrested Sept. 5 on a complaint alleging that he raped the 13-year-old girl and molested a 15-year-old girl. □

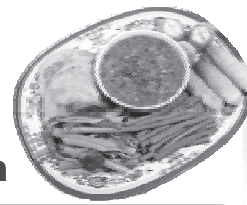
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## “No sale” is not an option for farmers

**Matthew Tresaugue**

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

HEARNE - Gathan Reistino pointed to the seemingly endless field of cotton, the same land his father farmed for decades. There, he said, is where one of the largest rail yards in Texas would go.

Saying the words nearly brought tears to his eyes.

“It was handed down to me, and I want to hand it down to my family,” the 85-year-old farmer said. Under the control of his daughters’ families, the name of the farm “might not be Reistino, but it will still be a part of me.”

Generations of farmers have prospered because of the deep, rich soil between the Brazos and Little Brazos Rivers in Robertson County, one of the most productive agricultural areas in the state.

The bottomland also is wide and flat and conveniently positioned between Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio, making it an attractive place for Union Pacific to build a massive switching yard.

The \$300 million project would cover about 1,100 acres, with as many as 72 tracks to help move the growing demand for clothes, lumber, oil-and-gas drilling supplies, vehicles and other freight across Texas. At the yard,

rail cars will be separated and sorted based on their destinations.

Omaha, Neb.-based Union Pacific has offered to buy the needed acreage from about 20 landowners, including Reistino, but is threatening to seize it through eminent domain. Texas law allows railroad companies to take private property for the building and operating of a public line when compensation agreements cannot be reached.

Almost all the property owners are not interested in selling to Union Pacific, said Kathleen Cotropia Hubbard, whose family owns 520 acres of cropland near where the rail yard would be built and is organizing the farmers’ opposition to the plan.

“They have options. We don’t,” Hubbard said of Union Pacific. “God doesn’t make land like this anymore.”

Joe Reistino purchased more than 400 acres in Robertson County in 1927 as part of a cluster of Italian immigrants who farmed the Brazos River bottomlands. He nearly lost the land during the Great Depression but sold about 100 acres to keep the rest. Another round of hard times forced the elder Reistino to borrow \$1,500 from an uncle in Houston to hold on to the land. □

## Oregon man wins giant pumpkin contest



Danika Starr, 9, sits with her father’s winning pumpkin at the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival Weigh-off contest in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. The pumpkin weighed 1,775 pounds, making it a new California record. Starr wins six dollars for each pound, which equals \$10,650.

(AP Photo/Tony Avelar)

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# Egypt president decrees pardon for protesters

SARAH EL DEEB  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt's new president on Monday issued a decree pardoning all those charged with or convicted of acts "in support of the revolution" since the beginning of the popular uprising that forced his predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, from power. The move by Mohammed Morsi was long demanded by Egypt's youth groups behind the uprising. It could potentially benefit more than 1,000 protesters currently on trial following their arrests during demonstrations since the uprising against Mubarak erupted on Jan. 25, 2011 and until Morsi was sworn in on June 30.

Those already convicted for their role in the protests may also be pardoned. Most of those on trial or convicted were detained during the rule of the generals who took over after Mubarak stepped



**Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, waves to the crowd gathered in a stadium upon his arrival for a speech on the holiday marking the 1973 war with Israel, in Cairo, Egypt. Morsi on Monday issued a decree pardoning all those charged with or convicted of acts "in support of the revolution" since the beginning of the popular uprising that forced his predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, from power.**

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

down in February 2011. Mohammed Gadallah, Morsi's legal advisor, said the decree is "one of the revolution's most important victories."

"It shows the revolution is now in power and guides the decision-making," Gadallah told The Associated Press. "This is a legislation that protects the revolutionaries." However, the wording of the decree is vague and doesn't immediately set anyone free, according to several human rights lawyers. It asks the prosecutor general and the military prosecutor to prepare a list of names, within a month of the decree's issuance, of those who may benefit from the pardon.

The first article of the decree, which was published on Morsi's official Facebook page, orders a

"comprehensive pardon for crimes and misdemeanors or attempts to commit them in support of the revolution and the realization of its goals." The only suspects exempted from the decree are those charged with premeditated murder over that time period.

"It is a great step, but not enough," said Ahmed Seif, a member of the committee formed by Morsi to review cases of those tried following the uprising. He said he had advised Morsi to specify who would benefit from the pardon. "Now, there will be differences over how to implement the pardon, and a debate," Seif said.

Gadallah said the decree is likely to cover all major court cases where protesters clashed with military troops and security forces. However, he admitted it is not clear how many would benefit from the pardon. □

# Syrian border barrages send message to Turkey

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syria's cross-border attacks on Turkey in the past week look increasingly like they could be an intentional escalation meant to send a clear message to Ankara and beyond, that the crisis is simply too explosive to risk foreign military intervention. With Turkey eager to defuse the crisis, the spill-over of fighting is giving new life to a longshot political solution, with the Turks floating the idea of making President Bashar Assad's longtime vice president, Farouk al-Sharaa, interim leader if the president steps aside.

A military option — which

would involve foreign powers that already have expressed a deep reluctance to getting involved in the crisis — is still not on the table, analysts say, despite six consecutive days of Turkish retaliation against bombardment from inside Syria.

"Syria is aware that Turkey cannot go a step further," said Ali Tekin, assistant professor of International Relations at Ankara's Bilkent University. "The Turkish people don't want a war and there are no vital national interests at stake to warrant a war. Syria sees this."

The Syrian conflict has



**Free Syrian Army fighters on top of armored vehicles that were captured from the Syrian Army in the village off Khirbet al-Jouz, in the northern province of Idlib, Syria. The Turkish state-run Anadolu news agency said Sunday that the rebels had regained full control of Khirbet al-Jouz.**

(AP Photo/Edlib News Network ENN)

taken a prominent role in the U.S. presidential election at a time when the U.S. and its allies have shown little appetite for getting involved.

On Monday, Republican candidate Mitt Romney said the U.S. should work with other countries to arm the Syrian rebels, allowing the rebels to drive Assad from power themselves. Romney did not call for the U.S. to directly arm the Syrian rebels.

The most recent flare-up between Syria and Turkey started Wednesday, when a shell fired from Syria slammed into a house in the Turkish border village of Akcakale, killing two women and three children. □



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## Russia's top doc: Got Milk? Don't drive!

**MAX SEDDON  
Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia's top health official said Monday that drinking and driving don't mix — even when the drink in question is kefir, a fermented milk beverage containing less than one percent alcohol. The comments by Genady Onishchenko, Russia's chief sanitary inspector, sparked an outburst of criticism and ridicule on Twitter. Dozens of users circulated a picture of a glass of kefir with the caption, "Kefir? NO! I'm driving!"

Officials have scrambling to condemn drunk driving since an intoxicated driver in September killed seven people, including five orphans, after crashing into a bus stop in Moscow. Some lawmakers have proposed life sentences for drivers who cause death while under the influence.

One has said drunk driving is a bigger threat than terrorism.

During a hearing of the Public Chamber, a governmental oversight body, on a proposal to raise the minimum blood-alcohol level for drivers, Onishchenko said kefir lovers "should decide — are you going to get behind the wheel, or drink kefir?"

"Here's a guy who loves kefir, poor baby, we've curbed his rights," Onishchenko went on. "But what about when he kills our children and our citizens?"

Getting drunk off kefir is practically impossible.

The comments mark an about-face for Onishchenko, previously a staunch supporter of kefir. During

record heat waves in 2010, Onishchenko suggested that traffic policemen in southern Russia drink kefir to stay cool. Last year he suggested Russians choose the healthier option of kefir over sugar-filled, foreign-made soft drinks.

Russia's tolerated blood-alcohol level for drivers is zero, which means people who take certain medications or drink kefir can be found guilty of drunk driving. Critics allege that the law encourages police corruption, and have called for the level to be raised.

About 30,000 Russians die in road accidents each year — about the same as in the European Union, which has three times as many people and six times as many cars. Only 1,000 of those are caused by drunk driving, according to official statistics, but given lax police enforcement, the real total is widely believed to be much higher.

Onishchenko is regularly mocked for supposed health concerns that curiously coincide with political disputes. He has issued blanket bans on Georgian wine and mineral water and Ukrainian cheese amid Russian spats with those countries. As the Kremlin issued increasingly anti-American pronouncements this summer, Onishchenko implored Russians not to eat hamburgers, which he said were "not our food."

And as Moscow prepared for unprecedented protests against President Vladimir Putin in December, Onishchenko warned Russians away from taking to the streets for fear of catching cold. □

## Athens police plan crackdown ahead of Merkel/Samaras talks



**A pensioner shouts slogans during an anti-austerity protest in front of the EU headquarters in Athens on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. Greek police have increased security in Athens to contain protests against Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who is visiting the city Tuesday.**

(AP Photo)

**NICHOLAS PAPHITIS**

**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**

— Greek police have increased security and are preparing to close down large sections of the capital Athens to contain protests against Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who is visiting the city Tuesday for talks with the country's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras.

Merkel's brief visit comes amid growing unrest in Greece over the planned new cutbacks. Greek authorities, who are struggling to talk bailout creditors into unfreezing a vital loan installment, are determined to prevent riots while Merkel is in town on her first visit to the country in five years.

Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias appealed to protesters Monday to "protect the peace, and above all our country's prospects and our international image." Some 7,000 police will be on duty for the visit. Police have banned public gatherings in much of the city center from early Tues-

day and in a 100-meter (110-yard) radius from the route Merkel's motorcade will follow.

A police spokesman said the ban will not affect two separate protests called by labor unions and opposition parties elsewhere in the city but will include the German embassy, where a populist right wing party has called an evening

demonstration Tuesday. Greece has depended on bailouts from fellow countries in the 17-country group that uses the euro and the International Monetary Fund since May 2010. To get the loans, it implemented a series of deep income cuts and tax hikes, while increasing retirement ages and facilitating private sector layoffs. □



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Mexico:

## Cartel suspect blamed for jailbreaks, massacre

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The Mexican navy nabbed a suspected Zetas cartel leader accused of involvement in some of the country's most notorious crimes in recent years, authorities said Monday.

Navy spokesman Jose Luis Vergara announced that Salvador Alfonso Martinez Escobedo was arrested

Saturday and is believed to have masterminded the massacre of 72 migrants in the northern state of Tamaulipas in 2010.

The man known as "Squirrel" also has been linked to the escape of 151 prisoners in 2010 from a jail in the city of Nuevo Laredo, the recent flight of 131 prisoners in the city of Piedras Negras and the killing of U.S. citizen David Hartley in

2010 on Falcon Lake, which straddles the U.S.-Mexico border.

The death of Hartley drew wide attention as it appeared Hartley and his wife, Tiffany, were on a personal trip when he was shot by Mexican criminals on Sept. 30, 2010. The Hartleys were using personal watercraft on Falcon Lake when David Hartley was shot in the head. Asked about the detention, Tiffany Hartley's mother, Cynthia Young of LaSalle, Colorado, said: "We heard the news this morning. We're just trying to process the information."

"What we're going to try to do is get a hold of some facts and make sure we know what's happening," Young said. She said the family could issue a statement once more information is known.

The navy is also blaming Martinez for the killing of the Tamaulipas state police



**Salvador Alfonso Martinez also known as "La Ardilla," or "Squirrel," in English, holds up his right finger while presented to the press under the custody of navy marines at the Organized Crime Special Investigations Unit (SIEDO) headquarters in Mexico City, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. According to federal authorities Martinez is one of the most wanted criminals in Mexico, and is allegedly a top regional leader of the Zetas drug cartel.**

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

commander and chief investigator on the case, an attack that hampered the investigation.

Vergara said Martinez was captured in Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo, Texas. He was shown to the news media Monday.

The navy said Martinez is also a suspect in dozens of killings of people who were buried in mass

graves at the same site of the 2010 massacre of migrants. Nearly 200 bodies were discovered in April 2011 in the town of San Fernando, close to the U.S. border. Those two crimes have been the most fatalities since Mexico's federal government launched an armed offensive against drug traffickers in December 2006. □

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## Iran claims oil platforms cyberattacked

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran says it has successfully blocked a cyberattack on the computer network of its offshore drilling platforms, a semiofficial news agency reported Monday.

The report by ISNA quoted Mohammad Reza Golshani, IT head of Iran's state offshore oil company, as blaming Israel for having planned the attack.

Iran periodically reports the discovery of viruses and

other malicious programs in government, nuclear, oil and industrial networks, blaming Israel and the United States. In May, Iran shut down part of its oil facilities because of another such cyberattack.

Israel has done little to deflect suspicion that it uses viruses against Iran.

In this case, Golshani said, the attack occurred over the past two weeks, was routed through China, and

affected only the communications systems of the network. He said the main network was safe since it was isolated from the Internet, and was back to normal operations. Iran announced that it had temporarily disconnected its oil ministry and its main crude export terminal from the Internet after the May attack. Iran earns up to 80 percent of its foreign revenue from the export of crude. □



In this photo taken with a mobile phone, soldiers stand outside a burnt out shopping mall in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012. Nigerian soldiers angry about the killing of an officer razed buildings and shot dead more than 30 civilians Monday in a northeastern city long under siege by a radical Islamist sect. An Associated Press reporter in Maiduguri, the spiritual home of the sect known as Boko Haram, counted the dead while on a tour of the still-smoldering neighborhood.

(AP Photo / Abdulkareem Haruna)

## Nigeria military kills over 30 civilians

**HARUNA UMAR**  
Associated Press

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)**

— Nigerian soldiers angry about the killing of an officer shot dead more than 30 civilians Monday in a northeastern city long under siege by a radical Islamist sect.

The attack came from soldiers attached to a special military unit on guard in Maiduguri, the spiritual home of the sect known as Boko Haram, in an effort to supposedly protect its citizens from the violence gripping the city. The killings likely will further antagonize a population already alienated by checkpoints, security force harassment and the threat of being killed by soldiers who are targets for the sect's increasingly bloody guerrilla attacks.

An Associated Press reporter in Maiduguri counted the dead while on a tour of the still-smoldering neighborhood Monday afternoon. The journalist saw no weapons or evidence that the dead belonged to the sect. A soldier nearby, who did not identify himself, claimed the attack was a response to a bombing nearby earlier Monday that

he said killed a lieutenant. "They killed our officer!" the soldier shouted. "We had no options!"

The AP reporter also saw that soldiers had set fire to about 50 homes and businesses around the area, which sits near the Nigerian Union of Journalists state office and other buildings in Maiduguri. It appeared the soldiers attacked the area using assault rifles and heavy machine guns mounted on armored personnel carriers. Rounds shot from the heavy machine guns destroyed cars and set roofs on fire, which razed buildings and caused damage at a two-story shopping complex. The journalist accompanied Zanna Umar Mustapha, the deputy governor of Borno state, on the tour. State officials declined to comment about the killings and urged those traveling with the convoy not to take photographs of the destruction out of fear of further alienating those living in the region.

Nigeria's military has been accused of committing so-called "extrajudicial killings" while in pursuit of the Boko Haram sect. □

## Union accuses platinum producer in SA of racism

**RODNEY MUHUMUZA**

Associated Press

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** —

The National Union of Mineworkers accused Anglo American Platinum Monday of "racism" as the impasse between striking miners and the world's top platinum producer escalated.

The NUM alleged that its leader in Rustenburg, the scene of a wildcat strike that brought Amplats' operations to a halt, was called derogatory names by the company's security officials at its Swartklip Union mine in Limpopo province. The official was racially abused Monday together with a journalist for the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the union charged in a statement.

The union's attempts to intercede on behalf of miners fired last week by Amplats had been thwarted, said NUM spokesman Lesiba Seshoka. "It has become very clear that the company promotes racism through procuring security and other services from racists and their companies and that it has no intention to empower African people," Seshoka said. "The company has a week ago embarked on mass dismissals and was in the process of doing the same at Swartklip when the NUM leaders sought to intervene and speak to members only to be met with imported racism of a special type." Mpumi Sithole, a spokeswoman for Amplats, declined to comment on this matter.

Amplats, a subsidiary of the London-listed Anglo Platinum, last week dismissed 12,000 striking miners for staging a wildcat strike and later failing to attend disciplinary hearings. The mineworkers have since threatened to make the mines ungovernable, saying it



Striking mineworkers take part in a demonstration in Rustenburg, South Africa. The National Union of Mineworkers is accusing Anglo American Platinum of displaying "racism" as the impasse between striking miners and the world's top platinum producer escalates.

(AP Photo)

will be impossible for the company to hire new workers.

The miners are determined to fight for their jobs, said strike leader Evans Ramokga Monday.

About 80,000 miners, or 16 percent of South Africa's total mine workforce, are currently on strike across South Africa in work

stoppages that have serious economic implications for South Africa. The labor unrest is damaging the country's reputation as an investment destination, say economists. South Africa produces 75 percent of the world's platinum and is the No. 4 chrome producer and the fifth-biggest gold producer. □

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## Indonesia:

# A decade after Bali, terror aims at government

**NINIEK KARMINI**

**Associated Press**

**BALI, Indonesia (AP)** — Ten years after terrorist attacks at two Bali nightclubs killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists, Indonesia has won international praise for its counterterrorism efforts. Militant organizations have been fractured and many of their charismatic leaders have been killed or jailed. But an Associated Press analysis shows the number of strikes within the country has actually gone up, especially since 2010, when radical imams called on their followers to focus on domestic targets rather than Westerners. The more recent attacks have been conducted with less expertise, and the vast majority of victims have been Indonesians.

"It turns out that the terrorism problem in Indonesia is not finished yet," said Maj. Gen. Tito Karnavian, a former counterterrorism official recently appointed police chief of Papua province. "The quality of their attacks has decreased, but the quantity has increased."

Since Oct. 12, 2002, when the Bali attacks killed 202 people — including 88 Australians and seven Americans — there have been four major terror strikes targeting Westerners in Indonesia, resulting in 45 deaths. The last was in 2009, when attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta killed seven people.

That compares to 15 at-

tacks against security forces, local authorities, Christians and some moderate Muslims in just the past two years. Those attacks have killed a total of 11 people — all police officers — and

the al-Qaida-linked group that sent two other bombers to the Bali nightclubs on a busy Saturday night. He told the AP that his mentor, Imam Samudra, one of the plot masterminds, deemed

on good behavior that same year and is now part of the government's de-radicalization program, designed to reform convicted extremists.

He told the AP he also was



**In this Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012 photo, members of Indonesian police anti-terror unit Special Detachment 88 move into positions as they prepare for a raid in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia. Ten years after terrorist attacks at two Bali nightclubs killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists, Indonesia has won international praise for its counterterrorism efforts. Militant organizations have been fractured and many of their charismatic leaders have been killed or jailed. But an Associated Press analysis shows the number of strikes within the country has actually gone up, especially since 2010, when radical imams called on their followers to focus on domestic targets rather than Westerners. The more recent attacks have been conducted with less expertise, and the vast majority of victims have been Indonesians.**

(AP Photo)

wounded dozens of civilians.

Although the targets may have shifted, the methods for recruiting young men remain the same. They are indoctrinated to believe that as jihadist "grooms" they will reap God's rewards for martyrdom — paradise for the bomber and 70 family members and the gift of 72 virgin angels. It's a belief shunned by most Muslims.

Fadlan, a convicted militant who goes by a single alias name, was trained to be a suicide bomber in 2001 by Jemaah Islamiyah,

it too risky to use him in the attacks because he was already wanted for an earlier botched bombing.

Today, Fadlan believes he would be in paradise if he had been picked.

"I still believe it ... because it's not promised by my recruiter, but God," Fadlan said softly in a mosque near his house in central Jakarta. Fadlan was jailed for four years in 2006 after being found guilty of harboring terrorists, including Noordin M. Top, who was Southeast Asia's most wanted militant before police killed him in 2009. Fadlan was released

involved in two 2001 bombings at churches in eastern Jakarta that injured more than 70 worshippers. He was never convicted in those incidents due to a lack of evidence.

Now 36, Fadlan says he's not actively involved with any militant groups in Indonesia and no longer interested in becoming a groom there because the country is not seen as a battle ground for holy war. But he smiles broadly when asked if he would still be willing to serve as a suicide bomber on another front if called.

"Nobody refuses a reward in heaven, right?" he says. "But I live like I'm in a large aquarium now ... authorities are watching me everywhere I go, and I could not go abroad."

A turning point for Indonesian terrorist groups came in 2010, when police raided a paramilitary jihadi camp hidden in the mountains of Aceh. An anti-terrorism crackdown followed that left more than 100 suspected militants either dead or arrested.

Another alleged Bali bombings mastermind, Dulmatin, was shot to death in a raid. Radical Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir was arrested; last year he was sentenced to 15 years in jail.

That led Indonesian extremist religious leaders to order militants to change their mission. Instead of going after Westerners and American symbols they were directed to target Indonesian 'infidels' such as police, anti-terrorism squads, lawmakers and others deemed as obstacles to transforming the secular country into an Islamic state governed by Sharia law.

Most of Indonesia, a country of 240 million, practices a moderate style of Islam that condemns violence, and its government is keeping up pressure against extremists. Data from the National Police revealed more than 700 militants have been arrested over the past 10 years, including 84 last year. Dozens more have been killed since the Bali bombings. □



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## Aruba Bank and Serlimar announce the Good4TheNeighborhood “Upgrade Your Bario”

**- Program begins in the month of November.**

**ORANJESTAD, Aruba** –September 28th, 2012: Aruba Bank's “Good4TheNeighborhood” project continues. This year the bank is introducing a new concept, in which the project will include a Cleanup Day with participants from the secondary education schools and the Centronan di Bario (Neighborhood Centers).

The goal for this year is to include the youth and residents of neighborhoods in a community project as well as increase their awareness of the fact that together we can make a change and improve the recreational opportunities on the streets where we live. “Good4TheNeighborhood” wants to stimulate teamwork, leadership, creativity among youngsters and educate our upcoming generation on how to design and execute a plan, as well as create a budget for that plan.

This year Serlimar will also take part in Good4TheNeighborhood and contribute to the aspect of cleaning up during Cleanup Days in different neighborhoods.

Serlimar will place trash cans, and its trucks will go through all streets. The Serlimar team will also be on hand to coordinate activities and make sure all goes well.

Aruba Bank approached the secondary-education schools in Aruba to invite third grade students to participate in this wonderful project.

Aruba Bank will visit the island's neighborhoods to select the neighborhoods



that have the most need for general cleanups. Each school that participates will adopt one of these neighborhoods and participate in the Cleanup Day project. The schools will work together with the community centers with the objective to involve all neighborhood residents in the

Good4TheNeighborhood Cleanup Day.

The students will also have the opportunity to present an idea for a recreational area in their neighborhood. The goal behind this is to create a better line of communication among neighbors, through which they may exchange ideas, relax

and enjoy time with their children. The participating schools will continue to monitor these recreational areas and will be responsible for their maintenance, which will take place once a year.

Additionally, Aruba Bank will place a “Good4TheNeighborhood” sign in the

recreational area of each neighborhood, thereby modeling the social corporate responsibility that the bank feels towards the community.

At the end of the execution of the projects, a group of judges will select the top 3 best projects.

There will be prizes for the three projects that stand out the most.

Each project that is realized is a winner on its own, and Aruba Bank will have a special token of recognition for each school that participates.

Aruba Bank will hereby once again encourage our younger generation in the secondary education school system to participate in a Good4TheNeighborhood project, thereby stimulating the sense of leadership and creativity among the youngsters and teaching them how to work in a team for their community.

Aside from this the bank will also involve the youth and neighborhood residents in a project that is good for their neighborhood as well as educate the youngsters on creating a plan and working based on a budget. In the month of December, each project will be presented during a final event at Aruba Bank Camacuri branch, during which Aruba Bank will also announce the three winning schools.

In the weeks ahead, Aruba Bank will provide more information and details related to the Good4TheNeighborhood Upgrade Bo Bario project, which will involve schools, student and especially diverse neighborhoods on the island. □



## Guitarist Ernesto Ferro rocks at Gillmanfest Valencia 2012



**ORANJESTAD** – This past August, one of the island's premier guitarists, Ernesto Ferro, returned to his homeland of Venezuela as a special guest at Gillmanfest Valencia 2012, known as South America's "Capital of Rock."

Ernesto founded the band Gillman back in 1984, and along with cofounder Paul Gillman, formed the country's first rock singer-guitarist duo in the style of world-renowned duos like Jagger-Richards, Plant-Page, and Tyler-Perry. Through 1991, Ernesto and Gillman played to sellout crowds in large amphitheatres and venues.

During Ernesto's reunion concert in August, it was as if he and Gillman never missed a beat, picking up right where they left off, dusting off their old LP classics and playing to a crowd of more than 30,000 die-hard fans. Also playing at the festival was industrial metal band, "Fear Factory," from Los Angeles. During the show, the festival organization awarded Ernesto with a plaque of appreciation for his work and contribution to the rock music made in Venezuela. Here on Aruba, Ernesto plays at various resort venues throughout the week. □

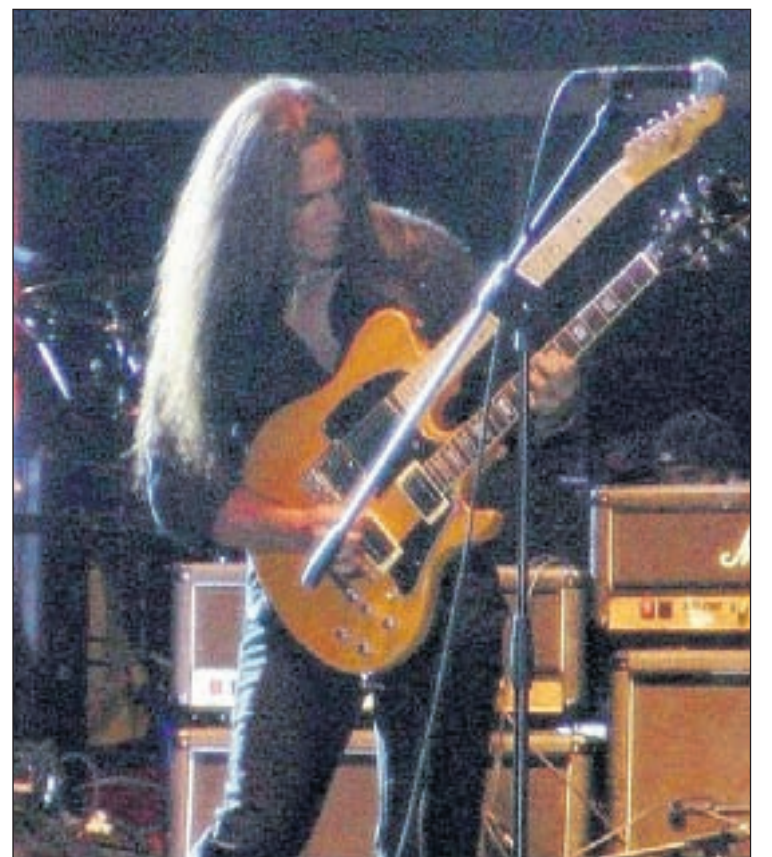
# Beauty on the Beach

*Maria Castayeda and Osmary Ramos*

Maria and Osmary are both from Guanare, Portuguesa in Venezuela. For both, it is their first time in Aruba for a lovely three day visit, staying at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort.

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# Kids learn the ropes at Westin



**PALM BEACH** – This past week, local school children had the week off for fall break, and as is tradition at the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba, one day is dedicated to “bring your

kids to work” day during the break. Associates brought their kids for a few hours to both see first-hand what mom and dad do, as well as tour the inner workings of the resort, gaining

a unique perspective of the hospitality industry. Pictured here are the children out and about throughout the resort, even spending some time in the kitchen baking cupcakes with the chefs! □



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# Loyal visitors honored by the Aruba tourism Authority!



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of very loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguish Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were Ernie and Gloria Silvia, and their children, Marissa and Chad Silvia, who received their certificate from the

Minister of Tourism the next day. Also honored were Gary and Jacqueline Szymaniak. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees all have one thing

in common, they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, shopping, family atmosphere and the relaxation. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Rina Geerman. □



## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



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[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)  
Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm,  
**Sunday Closed.**



This March 18, 2012 file photo shows Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, posing with her alpine ski, women's World Cup trophies for the super-G, super-combined, downhill and overall titles, in Schladming, Austria.

Associated Press

## U.S. team yet to discuss Vonn's request to race men

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

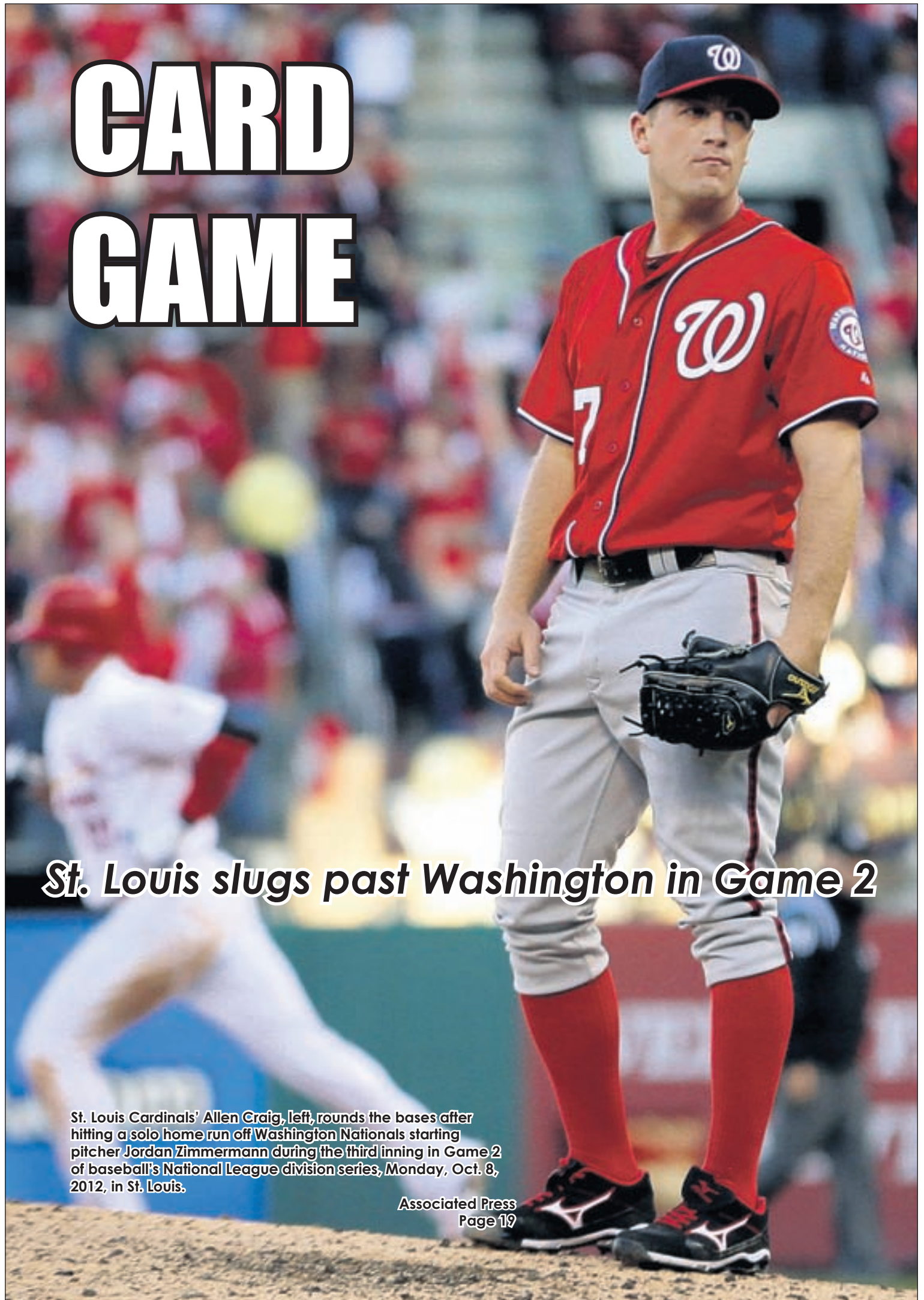
GENEVA (AP) — Lindsey Vonn wants to challenge the men's downhill skiers in a World Cup race next month, though her wish still needs the support of the United States team and Alpine skiing's governing body.

The United States ski federation said Monday that it has not yet had a "formal discussion" about the possibility of its star racer challenging the men on Nov. 24 in Lake Louise, Alberta.

Vonn, the women's Olympic downhill champion, has written the International Ski Federation to ask whether she can make the historic start at a venue where she has earned nine of her 26 World Cup downhill victories. The Canadian course — often dubbed "Lake Lindsey" for her dominance there — stages women's races, including two downhills, the following week-end.

Continued on next page

# CARD GAME



## St. Louis slugs past Washington in Game 2

St. Louis Cardinals' Allen Craig, left, rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run off Washington Nationals starting pitcher Jordan Zimmermann during the third inning in Game 2 of baseball's National League division series, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in St. Louis.

Associated Press  
Page 19

# Tiger eyes leading U.S. at Ryder Cup \_ just not yet

**BERNIE MCGUIRE**

**Associated Press**

**BELEK, Turkey (AP)** — Tiger Woods hopes to captain the U.S. Ryder Cup team someday. He still plans to play in a few more before that happens. The 14-time major winner is coming off a disappointing performance at Medinah. He secured only half a point in his seventh Ryder Cup appearance as Europe retained the title Sept. 30.

"One day that would be fantastic and a huge honor to be a captain of a Ryder Cup team, but hopefully it doesn't happen in the near future," Woods said. "I still want to be playing on a lot more teams but certainly one day, when my golfing life is slowing down and when it's over, that would be a huge honor to be a part of a Ryder Cup from a captaincy side."

Woods arrived Monday for the \$5.3 million Turkish Airways World Golf Finals, an eight-player event being promoted simply as "Tiger v Rory."

Woods tied Raymond Floyd for the U.S. record for most

losses in foursomes (8) after pairing with Steve Stricker on Friday. He also went down in the fourballs Friday and Saturday afternoon with Stricker.

After playing only once on the winning team, in 1999, Woods is stinging at the latest loss.

"It didn't set in for me for a few days as to what happened in Medinah. I had two sick kids I had to care for and they also had to go to school. They had fevers and I was focused on them for a couple of days," he said. "I then started to talk to my friends and teammates, and once it all started to sink in — and the position we had been in and what transpired — yes, it was tough for a couple of days."

"I texted Freddie (Couples) and Steve (Stricker) quite a bit, and like anything it is a tournament lost and you have to move on and focus on the next event. We lose far more than we win in this sport and you learn to move on. The next event is this week here in Turkey, and I've got a good matchup with Charl



**USA's Tiger Woods reacts after making a birdie on the 15th hole during a four-ball match at the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Friday, Sept. 28, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.**  
**Associated Press**

(Schwartzel)."

Unlike Woods, Rory McIlroy has been to Turkey before, supporting tennis star girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki for a season-ending event. Wozniacki is here to support McIlroy this time, and the top-ranked golfer is looking forward to getting back

into the swing after the euphoria of the Ryder Cup.

"It's going to be a very exciting week with eight of the best players in the world, and the people of Turkey are going to see an event they've never seen before," McIlroy said. "I am still trying to come down

from the high of the Ryder Cup, but it's just nice to be here."

"I haven't touched a club since the Ryder Cup as I've just been chilling out with Caroline, so I will get to the golf course early tomorrow morning and see if it's still there." □

## Continued from Page 17

FIS, however, can't make a decision on Vonn until the U.S. ski team makes a formal request to let her enter. "There's not anything to say until we have a proposal from the national association," FIS secretary general Sarah Lewis told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Monday.

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association would need to submit a request before the decision-making FIS Council next meets Nov. 3-4 in Oberhofen, Switzerland — but has yet to decide whether to do so.

"We clearly have great respect for Lindsey, her accomplishments in the sport and her desire to seek this new challenge," Tom Kelly, vice president of communications for the U.S.S.A., said in a statement. "But we have not had any formal discussion



yet between Lindsey and FIS."

"As with any issue or opportunity, decisions we make are management decisions but include all appropriate parties," Kelly wrote. Team obligations to broadcaster NBC are a likely

factor after it committed to starting live coverage of World Cup races on its NBC Sports Network cable channel this season.

When the men are racing Nov. 24-25 in Lake Louise, the women's World Cup circuit makes its one

scheduled stop in the United States, with giant slalom and slalom races scheduled on a holiday weekend program at Aspen, Colorado.

In an August news release, the U.S.S.A. said "live coverage will feature Olympic

champions Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso from the Nature Valley Aspen International Thanksgiving weekend."

"We would weigh all elements, including TV, in the context of how we can best support athletes like Lindsey," Kelly wrote in an email reply to the AP.

A FIS rule limiting athletes' access to extra training time on slopes so close to race days also counts against Vonn's chances.

By taking part in men's training and races at Lake Louise, the rule would bar Vonn from the subsequent women's races — two downhills and a super-G — for having gained an unfair advantage in familiarizing herself with the slope.

Vonn may be unwilling to jeopardize losing race points which have been the foundation of her four overall World Cup titles and five straight downhill season trophies. □

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# Cardinals rout Nationals 12-4, tie NLDS 1-all

By R.B. FALLSTROM

AP Sports Writer

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** -- Carlos Beltran hit the last two of the Cardinals' four homers and St. Louis chased an ineffective Jordan Zimmermann early in a 12-4 rout of the Washington Nationals on Monday that tied their NL division series at one game apiece.

Allen Craig and Daniel Descalso also went deep to help the defending World Series champions build a big lead that compensated for a two-inning start from an ailing Jaime Garcia. Craig hit his fifth career postseason homer and scored three times.

Ryan Zimmerman and Adam LaRoche hit consecutive homers in the fifth for the Nationals, who head home for the remainder of the best-of-five series. But the NL East champions are without All-Star ace Stephen Strasburg, shut down for the rest of the season early last month to protect his surgically repaired arm. Game 3 is Wednesday afternoon at Nationals Park. Edwin Jackson starts for Washington against longtime Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter, who made only three starts during the regular season because of injury.

"Today, for us, was a must-win game," Beltran said. The Cardinals seem to live for those. They lost the division series and NL championship series openers last fall, then finished strong in the World Series after spotting Texas a 3-2 lead. So, they're on familiar ground.

There were no lineup changes in Game 2 of the division series, just a lot more clutch hitting from players accustomed to October pressure.

Beltran homered twice in the postseason for the third time in his career, connecting in the sixth off Mike Gonzalez and eighth off Sean Burnett. Jon Jay had two hits and three RBIs, plus an outstanding catch at the center-field wall to deprive Danny Espinosa of extra bases in the sixth.

St. Louis was 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position in Game 1 and totaled just three hits.

The Cardinals had five hits in a four-run second Monday, Descalso hit his first postseason homer in the fourth a day after getting robbed by Jayson Werth's leaping catch at the right-field wall, and Beltran's drive off Gonzalez in the sixth banged off the facade in the third deck in left, estimated at 444 feet.

Shadows didn't seem to be as big of an issue in Game 2, which started 1 1/2 hours later than the opener, creeping past the pitcher's mound around the third inning. Both teams had issues with playing conditions after the opener.

Late last season, after complaints from Albert Pujols and Lance Berkman, the Cardinals said they'd try not to schedule late afternoon games that might be affected.

Zimmermann lasted a season-low three innings while pitching on eight days' rest. His next-shortest outing also was against the Cardinals, when he gave up a four-run, first-inning cushion and was chased after yielding eight runs in 3 2-3 innings in a 10-9 loss at home.

The numbers weren't favorable for the 25-year-old right-hander prior to first pitch, given he's 0-2 with a 9.45 ERA in five career regular-season starts

against the Cardinals. They were 3 for 5 with runners in scoring position against a pitcher who led the majors by holding opponents to a .160 average.

Nationals batters made contact on just four of Garcia's 24 pitches in the first, threatening with a pair of walks. Garcia went to a full count on five of his first eight hitters, and threw 51 pitches in two innings while surrendering Zimmermann's RBI single in the second.

Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said Garcia was pulled because his arm didn't feel right. Garcia missed time this season with a shoulder problem. □



Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper, right, is tagged out at third by St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Pete Kozma during the seventh inning in Game 2 of baseball's National League division series, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in St. Louis.

The Associated

## Cilic, Querrey advance to 2nd round in Shanghai

SANDRA HARWITT

For The Associated Press

**SHANGHAI (AP)** — Tenth-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia moved into the second round of the Shanghai Masters on Monday with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Lukasz Kubot of Poland.

Cilic served eight aces and broke Kubot four times to wrap up the win in 1 hour, 33 minutes.

American player Sam Querrey also advanced with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Chinese wild-card entry Li Zhe. The 22nd-ranked Querrey jumped out to a quick 5-2 lead in the first set, then won the final five games of the second to close out the match in just 59 minutes.

Querrey served 11 aces and converted five of his 10 break points.

"I thought I served great," Querrey said. "I thought I returned well, and I took



Marin Cilic of Croatia returns a shot to Lukasz Kubot of Poland during the first round men's singles match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Monday Oct. 8, 2012.

Associated Press

advantage of the break points. That was the key." Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria beat Pablo Andujar of Spain 7-5, 6-3 to set up a meeting with second-seeded Novak Djokovic in the

next round. Djokovic, who is coming off his third title at the China Open in Beijing, and the other seven top-seeded players have byes in the first round.

Dimitrov earned the only two breaks of the match, including in the fourth game of the second set to take a decisive lead.

Also Monday, Tommy Robredo of Spain defeated qualifier Alex Bogomolov Jr. of Russia 7-6 (4), 6-4; Benoit Paire of France ousted qualifier Philipp Petzschner of Germany 7-6 (2), 6-4; and ninth-seeded Nicolas Almagro of Spain lost to 34-year-old Tommy Haas of Germany 4-6, 7-6 (4) 6-2.

"He served extremely well and had a lot of chances in the second set. But I was hanging tough and finally took the second set," Haas said. "Once I broke serve in the third set the momentum shifted my way." □

# Heat arrive in China for preseason games

**TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Sports Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — LeBron James is visiting China for the ninth time, which makes him one of the resident Miami Heat experts about the world's most populous nation. Specifically, the food choices there.

"If anyone comes back with any body fat from this trip, then I don't know what they were doing on their free time," said James, the NBA's MVP.

So maybe it's fortunate that the coming week won't exactly include a ton of free time for the Heat, who arrived in Beijing on Monday night for a weeklong trip. The reigning league champions play the Los Angeles Clippers twice during the NBA China Games, starting in Beijing on Thursday and then again Sunday in Shanghai. "Should be fun," James said. "It's a very long trip to be bonding together, but we're going to use it and not waste an opportunity." The itinerary is hectic, with VIP receptions, a trip to the Great Wall of China and other excursions planned. The Heat are trying to ensure that players and personnel have time to experience some elements



Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) is defended by Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith in the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

of Chinese culture on their own.

"You only have these type of opportunities so often," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You want to take advantage of it. This is the preseason. We understand the big picture. It's a great program that the NBA runs when you have an opportunity to play overseas. Our last trip was tremendous when we went to Europe. Great team-building, and you get to see another part of the world and do it together."

The Heat played games in France and England during the 2008 preseason against the Nets, who then called New Jersey home.

Miami left on Saturday for Atlanta, played the Hawks there in the preseason opener for both teams on Sunday afternoon, then boarded a charter for the flight to Beijing, one that lasted a little more than 14 hours. The Heat landed around 9:30 p.m. local time.

Heat guard Mario Chalmers remembered to turn his

phone's international plans on before leaving the U.S. Apparently, he forgot to account for the time difference halfway around the world — tweeting that he slept for about 11 hours on the plane, meaning he was rested and refreshed around what would have figured to be bedtime in China.

"I ain't gettin no sleep tonight," Chalmers wrote. Which means he may be a bit groggy Tuesday morning, when the Heat are scheduled to hold their first practice in China. The team has set aside about six hours for a trip to the Great Wall later in the day. "We're looking forward to the opportunity," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "I think as an organization, as players individually, once we get over there it will be a great opportunity to continue to grow our game."

Wade did not play in Atlanta on Sunday as he continues recovering from offseason knee surgery. He is hopeful of playing at least once in China, and went for a late-night workout after the plane landed Monday night. He remembers what those Nets-Heat games were like in Europe four years ago, and said the element of facing the same team twice in the span of a few days helps raise the

competitive bar a bit, even in an exhibition.

"The second one was a little bit more of a grind-out game, where you really wanted to win," Wade said. "The first game will be fun and will give the fans a show. The second one's going to be a little more intense. Guys will want to get at it and try to win. No doubt, you need some competitive situations. You need to be pushed, you need to feel fatigued, all those things."

The NBA allows teams that are traveling internationally during the preseason to open camp a few days earlier than everyone else, which Spoelstra said was helpful.

Sure, it's a logistical challenge, but Spoelstra isn't worried.

"There's a lot of good things about trips like this with the NBA, and that's why we're looking forward to it," Spoelstra said. "If we didn't have this training camp I'd be thinking that this is a tough thing, a lot of distractions and so forth. But we've had a full training camp. Now we get to go away, together, and spend an inordinate amount of time around each other in a place that's a little bit out of our comfort zone. That usually is good for team-building."

Those meals might create a team memory or two as well. Chinese culinary options can seem unique — even though some on the trip are quick to point out there are American fast-food restaurants all over Beijing. But for those with more adventurous palates, some unusual choices can be had.

"I'm sure we're going to eat some funky meals where we can all say, 'Oh, that was nasty,'" said Heat forward Shane Battier, who has endorsed the Chinese shoe brand Peak since 2006. "Those experiences are good. And for guys who have never been to China before, it'll be fun to see their reaction. And those things, I think, can build a team." □

## Speedskating selects 3 to take over during scandal

**KEARNS, Utah (AP)** — U.S. Speedskating has appointed a 1994 Olympian and coaches who helped develop Apolo Anton Ohno and top Canadian athletes to take over until a scandal within the short-track program is sorted. The federation announced Monday that Pat Wentland and Stephen Gough will work with National Racing Program skaters headed to the World Cups events in autumn. Athletes still in the program who failed to qualify will be coached by Tony Guskowicz. The coaching changes follow news last week that Jae Su Chun and assistant Jun Hyung Yeo are both suspended for failing to report skate tampering by Simon Cho. Both coaches and Cho face □



In this Sept. 30, 2012, file photo, the United States Simon Cho takes adjusting his skates after racing in a 500 meter semifinal at the U.S. Single Distance Short Track Speedskating Championship in Kearns, Utah.

Associated Press

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# Kenseth wins when Stewart gets knocked upside down

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Alabama (AP)

— Daytona 500 winner Matt Kenseth won Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway, where a last-lap crash turned defending NASCAR champion Tony Stewart upside down.

Stewart was leading the final lap but had no drafting partner as the field closed in on him. He was looking for help when he misjudged how much room he had and turned down in front of Michael Waltrip.

Waltrip hooked Stewart's

bumper, and it triggered a 25-car accident that sent Stewart's car sailing on its side over the field. NASCAR threw the caution and Kenseth coasted to the victory.

Stewart was helped from his car by safety workers and waved to the crowd to signify he was OK. Jeff Gordon finished second and Kyle Busch was third. Everyone else was left wondering what happened to cause so much carnage.

"It's not safe. It's not. It's bloodthirsty," Dale Earnhardt Jr. said. "If that's

what people want, that's ridiculous."

Stewart took full responsibility for causing the accident. He had charged to the lead on the first lap of a two-lap sprint to the finish, but got too far ahead of the pack to hang on to any drafting partners.

Kenseth was charging on the outside of him and Waltrip was leading a line of traffic on the inside. Stewart was blocking all over the track, and said he mistakenly chopped across the front of Waltrip's car.



Matt Kenseth poses with the trophy after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press



London Olympics champion Usain Bolt watches the Breakers' training at their training facility at Mairangi Bay in Auckland, New Zealand, Monday, Oct 8, 2012.

Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)

— Usain Bolt will be aiming for a three-peat of Olympic sprint titles in the 100 and 200 meters at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, rather than trying out a new event.

After Bolt became the first

man to successfully defend both sprint titles at the London Olympics, he was coy about his prospects of competing in Rio and there was speculation he could switch to the long jump or 400 for a new challenge.

However, during a promo-

## Usain Bolt says he'll defend sprint titles in 2016 Rio Games

tional visit to New Zealand on Monday, the self-declared "living legend" said that his plan for 2016 "is all about just going and defending my titles."

"I don't want to try any different events at Rio, because at Rio I will just defend my titles to show the world that there is a possibility that I can do it again," Bolt, who won the 100- and 200-meters and helped Jamaica win the 4x100-meter relays at Beijing and London, told a news conference.

"The three-peat. That's the focus — there's not going to be any different event." The 26-year-old Bolt was under intense pressure from Yohan Blake heading into the London Olympics after

losing to his training partner at the Jamaican selection trials. But he vowed to deliver his best when it counted most and showed with his commanding runs in London just how far ahead of the competition he can be when he's in peak form. Bolt has the world record in the 100 and 200 and wants to go even faster. He'll return to training later this month and turn his attention immediately to the world championships next year in Moscow.

"I continue to work hard, continue staying focused and pushing myself, so for me that's the focus right now," he said. "I don't know how fast I can go but I definitely try to go faster each year. I enjoy being challenged all the time." □

"I just screwed up. I turned down and cut across Michael and crashed the whole field," Stewart said. "It was my fault, blocking and trying to stay where I was at."

"I was trying to win the race and I was trying to stay ahead of Matt there and Michael got a great run on the bottom and had a big head of steam, and when I turned down, I turned across the front of his car. Just a mistake on my part but cost a lot of people a bad day."

Five-time Talladega winner Earnhardt said enough is enough with the carnage.

"If this was what we did every week, I wouldn't be doing it," he said. "I'll just put it to you that way. If this was how we raced every week, I'd find another job. That's what the package is doing. It's really not racing. It's a little disappointing." □

**Personal Health:**

# E-health care helps older generation of Americans

**JANE E. BRODY**  
© 2012 New York Times

Are you among the 47 percent of older Americans who have not yet entered the digital age? If so, you're likely to be missing out on a lot of e-health opportunities available to help you live well despite chronic ailments and encroaching physical limitations. Americans over 65, whose health stands to benefit the most from modern digital technology, are the least able and least likely to use it. As of April, according to the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, 53 percent of Americans 65 and older were using the Internet or email, but after age 75, use dropped significantly, to 34 percent. By contrast, nearly 90 percent of younger adults are digitally connected.

The challenges of getting more of the elderly connected to e-health, a catchall term for digital practices related to health care, are many: lack of awareness; fear of computers and smartphones; problems with vision, hearing, cognition or manual dexterity; limited finances or learning options; and concerns about privacy. But these limitations are being addressed by experts who specialize in digital communication for older people — government agencies like the National Institute on Aging and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine; organizations like libraries, senior centers and residences, YMCA's and AARP; and a small but growing number of upstart companies that provide services in places like assisted living facilities. "Seniors need to get on the technological bandwagon and become an integral part of their own health care and health care delivery," said Sara J. Czaja, scientific director of

the Center on Aging at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. "Many older adults don't see the relevance of having access to the Internet,



**Connecting more older Americans to the Internet is expected to improve opportunities to protect their well-being and reduce national costs for care.** (Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

but more and more medical services are becoming available online." Getting more seniors digitally connected, either personally or through caregivers, is expected to greatly enhance opportunities to protect the health and well-being of older people and, at the same time, reduce both individual and national health care costs. How can e-health help you? Current and future possibilities listed by Czaja and others include:

- Learn more about your health problems and how best to manage them.
- Become an informed and active participant in decisions about your health.
- Remain independent and in your own home longer.
- Maintain an electronic personal medical record with everything in one place for easy access.
- Enhance emotional health and longevity by staying socially connected to friends and relatives.
- Communicate directly

with your doctors by email or Skype.

- Have a technologically based home visit by sending vital information, like blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation, digitally to your doctor.
- Find and facilitate access to medical specialists.
- Identify the best Medicare options for your needs.
- Order prescriptions and groceries online.
- Develop an at-home fitness program tailored to your needs and limitations.
- Find recipes and menus suited to your tastes, availability and nutritional requirements.

As more baby boomers who used digital devices during their younger years reach Medicare age, the proportion of the over-65 population that is e-savvy is expected to increase dramatically. But that will still leave a significant portion of the aging population in the Dark Ages of the type-writer.

Michelle Eberle, a consumer health information coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine in New England, said: "Older adults often are embarrassed by their lack of familiarity with computers and the Internet, and they try to hide their discomfort. But there are many places where seniors can overcome their technological disparities and get free training on the use of computers."

In a 2006 report, the federal Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion noted that "8 in 10 of today's seniors who have not yet used the Internet do not think they ever will." But a Pew Center study last year concluded that "80 is the new 60" — more and more older adults now use computers and the Internet, and two-thirds of seniors using the Internet have looked for health information online. □



**Alexis McKenzie, right, executive director of The Methodist Home of the District of Columbia Forest Side, an Alzheimer's assisted-living facility, laughs with resident Catherine Peake, in Washington. Combined results released, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, from two studies of an experimental Alzheimer's drug under development by Eli Lilly & Co. called solanezumab, suggest that it might modestly slow mental decline, especially in patients with mild disease. Taken separately, the studies missed their main goals to significantly slow the mind-robbing disease. But pooled results found 34 percent less decline in mild Alzheimer's patients compared to those on a dummy treatment for 18 months.** (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## Experimental Alzheimer drug shows some promise

**MARILYNN MARCHIONE**  
AP Chief Medical Writer  
**BOSTON (AP)** — Combined

results from two studies of an experimental Alzheimer's drug suggest it might modestly slow mental decline, especially in patients with mild disease. Taken separately, the studies missed their main goals to significantly slow the mind-robbing disease. But pooled results found 34 percent less decline in mild Alzheimer's patients compared to those on a dummy treatment for 18 months.

Doctors say the results do not seem strong enough to win approval of the drug now. But they show researchers are on the right track by trying to clear the sticky deposits that clog patients' brains.

The drug is being developed by Eli Lilly & Co. and is called solanezumab. Results were reported Monday at an American Neurological Association conference in Boston.

About 35 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's is the most common type. In the U.S., about 5 million have

Alzheimer's. Current medicines such as Aricept and Namenda just temporarily ease symptoms. There is no known cure.

Solanezumab is one of three drugs in late-stage testing that seek to alter the course of Alzheimer's. The two studies each had about 1,000 patients, about two-thirds with mild disease and one-third with moderately severe Alzheimer's, in 16 countries. Their average age was 75.

The main measures were two tests, one reflecting language, memory and thinking and the other, ability to perform daily activities such as eating and grooming. The combined results on the mild disease patients showed a nearly 2-point difference in the roughly 90-point score on thinking abilities.

"It's a small difference," said Dr. Rachelle Doody of Baylor College of Medicine. She heads a nationwide research network funded by the National Institute on Aging that did an independent analysis of Lilly's results on the studies and presented them Monday at the conference. □

# YouTube takes original programming venture abroad

**RAPHAEL SATTER**  
**Associated Press**

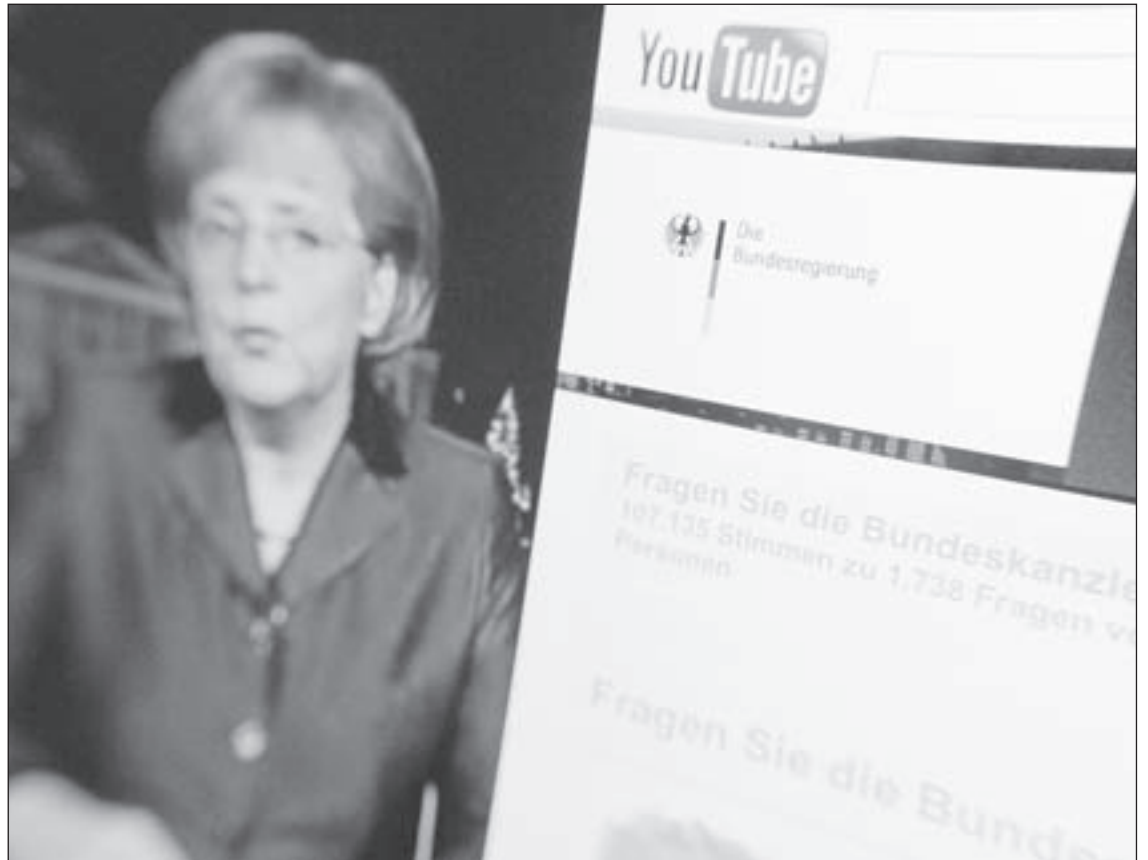
**LONDON (AP)** — YouTube is extending its original programming initiative into Europe, with at least 60 new video channels from media companies including Britain's BBC, London-based FreemantleMedia and the Netherlands' Endemol. The Google Inc.-owned video site said Monday the new channels, with content from Britain, Germany, France, and the United States, will be in addition to the 100 channels launched in the U.S. last year. Like the pre-existing American offerings, the European channels will have a mix of celebrity-oriented, niche, and established programs. "Some of the channels are personality-driven, others are from partners who are totally passionate about a subject," Ben McOwen Wilson, who manages YouTube's northern European partnerships, said in a telephone interview ahead of the announcement. He said the goal was to let content producers come up with something they couldn't deliver on TV.

The expansion into Europe marks another step in YouTube's move into the territory normally occupied by traditional media companies.

McOwen Wilson said the new channels would include programming from BBC Worldwide, the British public broadcaster's commercial arm; Endemol, the Dutch company behind the "Big Brother" reality television franchise; and FreemantleMedia, an arm of German media giant Bertelsmann responsible for "American Idol."

Factual programming includes "Euronews Knowledge," from rolling news channel Euronews and "Truthloader," by ITN Productions.

The channels will also count content from more niche players: the British offerings include co-productions such as "Guinness World Records: OMG" and "The Jamie Oliver Food Channel". Other British channels range from programs on drum and bass (Mixmag TV) to childcare (Netmums) and makeup tips, fashion, royalty, and more.



**This Dec. 31, 2008 file photo taken through a magnifying glass shows a video of German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivering her New Year's speech beside the Youtube channel of the German government. Associated Press**

McOwen Wilson declined to say how much YouTube was investing in the European expansion. The Associated Press has previously reported that the company paid out \$100 million (€77

million) to producers when it launched its U.S. channels in 2011, with advances reaching up to \$5 million per channel.

Google hopes that advertising revenue will cover the

money in advance it paid the media companies to set up the channels. Any surplus money generated on top of the advance will be split between Google and the producers. □

## SpaceX launch good for NASA, not private firm

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A private rocket successfully sent a capsule full of cargo zipping toward the International Space Station in a first of its kind delivery for NASA, but couldn't deliver on job No. 2: putting a commercial satellite into the correct orbit. One of nine engines on Space X company's Falcon 9 rocket failed Sunday 79 seconds after launch because of a pressure loss. The engine didn't explode, but it did start a series of events that meant another company's private satellite is not in the place it is needed. The main mission for the Falcon launch — delivering

half a ton of science and food supplies toward the space station — is still on track with a docking of the cargo-laden Dragon capsule scheduled for Wednesday. SpaceX on Monday said the ship's flight computer calculated a new path to the station for the capsule. It is the first of a dozen supply runs under a mega-contract with NASA. "Falcon 9 did exactly what it was designed to do," the California based SpaceX said. "Like the Saturn V, which experienced engine loss on two flights, Falcon 9 is designed to handle an engine out situation and still complete its mission." But not all of its mission. The original plan was for Falcon to fire its second

stage engines after Dragon left and then deploy an industrial communications satellite into orbit for Orbcomm of Dulles, Virginia. Because this is a new resupply ship for the space station, NASA and its international partners had set detailed safety rules in advance for Falcon, even though the engine failure was far from the station. And those rules prevent SpaceX from firing its second stage engines, Orbcomm said in a statement. The satellite is in a lower orbit and engineers are trying to figure out how to boost it, Orbcomm said. This was the first of 18 satellites that Orbcomm had hired SpaceX to deliver. The satellites help in two-



**The Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket lifts off from space launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla. on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012. The rocket is carrying supplies to the International Space Station. Associated Press**

way communications for companies to track their heavy equipment across the world. The company wouldn't respond to questions about the cost of the satellite or launch services. Harvard University astronomer Jonathan McDowell, who tracks launches world-

wide, noticed the problem for hours before either company acknowledged that the satellite was in the wrong orbit. Even though SpaceX was congratulating itself after the launch, McDowell said: "We can't say that it was a perfect launch." □

# Stocks slide on 3Q outlook, Asian economy

**JOSHUA FREED**  
**AP Business Writer**

Investors looked warily at forecasts for poor U.S. corporate earnings and weaker growth in Asia and decided there wasn't much reason to buy stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average gave up 26.50 points to close at 13,583.65 points Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.05 points to 1,455.88 and the Nasdaq composite lost 23.84 points to 3,112.35.

Companies in the S&P 500 index are expected to post an overall decline in profits for the first time in 11 quarters, according to FactSet. The third-quarter earnings season starts on Tuesday when aluminum maker Alcoa releases its results.

Tuesday also marks the five-year anniversary of the record high closes of the Dow and the S&P 500. The S&P, a benchmark tracked by many mutual funds, is currently about 7 percent below its record high. The Dow is about 4 percent below its peak.

Stocks have been on a strong run, with the Dow up 11 percent this year, the S&P 500 nearly 16 percent. But Asia's slowdown, Europe's problems, and now forecasts of weak U.S. corporate earnings have caused some investors to wonder whether the stock market has risen too far, too fast.

On top of those concerns,

some market leaders like Apple have been falling in recent days, noted Bob Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners LLC. "It sort of leads folks into thinking, 'Why don't I take a little bit of profit off the

the world's second-largest economy. It also cut its overall growth forecast for developing countries in Asia. Slower growth in Asia could drag down the U.S. economy. One of the few bright points for the U.S. during the



**A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks headed lower on Monday with economists growing increasingly pessimistic about Asia as well as expectations for a leaden performance from major U.S. corporations as the earnings season kicks off this week.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

table, put it away,'" and maybe re-invest it if third-quarter results turn out to be higher than expected, he said.

Apple closed above \$700 on Sept. 18, but has been declining since then. On Monday it fell \$14.42 to \$638.17.

Also on Monday, the World Bank warned that a "more pronounced slowdown" is possible in China,

recession was tremendous growth in export demand by developing nations in Asia and other regions.

While the U.S. economy isn't doing badly, investors have been counting on growth in Asia for help, said Rex Mac-ey, chief investment officer at Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors. "There was a point where we said 'Thank goodness for Asia and China. Their growth can fuel

the recovery.'" That's not so clear anymore, he said. Stocks and industries that depend most heavily on U.S. economic growth were among the biggest losers Monday. Intel fell 17 cents to \$22.51. Home Depot fell \$1.32 to \$61.88 and Walt Disney lost 64 cents to \$52.33.

Wal-Mart Stores and American Express shares didn't move much after they announced a reloadable prepaid card with no recurring or overdraft fees. But the news hammered shares of prepaid card competitor Green Dot Corp., which has also offered a card with Wal-Mart. Green Dot fell \$2.60, or 20 percent, to \$10.25.

UnitedHealth Group rose 47 cents to \$57.60 after the health insurer said it would pay \$4.9 billion in cash to buy most of Brazilian health benefits and hospital services provider Amil Participacoes.

Truck and engine maker Navistar rose \$1.60, or 8 percent, to \$22.81 after saying it will add two board members associated with activist investors, heading off a proxy battle. European markets also closed lower. France's CAC-40 fell 1.5 percent, Germany's DAX fell 1.4 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 lost 0.5 percent.

U.S. government bond trading was closed for the Columbus Day holiday. □

## Oil prices fall after World Bank caution

**The Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A strong warning from the World Bank that growth in Asia may slow further dragged the price of oil Monday to its lowest close in two months.

The World Bank signaled the possibility of a "more pronounced slowdown" in China, the world's second largest economy after the United States. It also cut its growth forecast for Asia. Red-hot growth in emerging markets like China and India helped boost oil consumption coming out of the global recession.

U.S. benchmark crude fell 55 cents to close at \$89.33 per barrel in New York. The contract hasn't closed lower since Aug. 2.

In London, Brent crude, which is used to price international varieties of oil, fell 20 cents to \$111.82 a barrel.

At the pump, U.S. gas prices remain stubbornly high. The national average for gasoline rose 3 cents over the weekend to \$3.818 a gallon (\$1 per liter). But Californians are now paying an average of \$4.668 a gallon (\$1.23 a liter), the highest price in the U.S., after a jump of 50 cents a gallon in the past week. Some motorists there are paying over \$5. □

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## Etihaad Airways partners up with Air France-KLM

**ADAM SCHRECK**  
AP Business Writer

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Rapidly expanding Gulf carrier Etihaad Airways has agreed to jointly market some of its flights with Air France-KLM in what could be the beginning of a larger strategic alliance, the airlines said Monday.

The deal for now covers codesharing on flights between Etihaad's hub in the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu Dhabi and Amsterdam and Paris, as well as some connecting flights to European, Asian and Australian destinations.

Codeshare deals, in which passengers can buy a single ticket to fly on multiple airlines, are common in the airline industry. They allow carriers to expand their reach without having to launch or acquire the right to operate additional routes.

Etihaad, though, is suggesting the agreement may lead to deeper ties with the Franco-Dutch airline operator. Its statement envisions the codeshares as the first phase of a "much larger strategic partnership" that could see the airlines team up on frequent flier programs, and cut costs by co-operating on procurement, aircraft maintenance and repairs.

Air France-KLM has also agreed to share its codes with Etihaad partner Air Berlin on routes between France and Germany. Etihaad bought nearly 30 percent of Air Berlin last year and has been strengthening business ties with the airline as it seeks to expand its reach in Europe.

The deal comes just over a month after Etihaad rival Emirates, based in nearby Dubai, signed a 10-year partnership deal with Qantas Airways. That agreement calls for Qantas to move its hub for European flights from Singapore to Dubai and coordinate with Emirates on ticket prices and scheduling. It also spells the end to a long-term relationship between the Australian carrier and British Airways. □

## BP sells Texas City refinery to Marathon Petroleum

**JONATHAN FAHEY**  
AP Energy Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — BP has finally found a buyer for its Texas City refinery, one of the largest and most complex in the U.S.

The total value of the deal could reach \$2.5 billion. The refinery was the scene in 2005 of a fatal fire and explosion.

Marathon Petroleum Corp.

will pay only \$598 million for the refinery itself and other nearby pipelines and fuel terminals. It will pay \$1.2 billion for the plant's inventory of oil and petroleum products. Marathon may have to pay another \$700 million over 6 years if certain unspecified conditions are met, the company said Monday. BP PLC been trying to sell refining and other

assets to help cover costs associated with the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. Since 2010, BP has agreed to sell \$35 billion worth of assets, and the company expects that to rise to \$38 billion by next year. The Texas City refinery has a troubled history. The 2005 explosion killed 15 workers and injured nearly 200 others. In 2009 more

than 700 violations were discovered at the plant by government inspectors. The company has paid more than \$2 billion to settle lawsuits and fines stemming from the explosion. It also has spent more than \$1 billion on safety and infrastructure improvements and another \$500 million to make fixes under a 2010 agreement with OSHA. □

## GM hiring 1,500 new staff near Detroit

**TOM KRISHER**  
AP Auto Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — General Motors plans to hire up to 1,500 workers to staff a new computer technology center outside Detroit.

It is part of a move to bring 90 percent of information technology in-house, which GM believes will make the company more nimble and efficient. The carmaker plans to hire 10,000 people at four new technology centers in the next three to five years. The centers will help get breakthrough ideas into the company's cars and trucks, GM says.

Last month the company announced it would hire 500 people for a center in Austin, Texas. The remaining two sites haven't been announced.

The hiring reverses a trend toward outsourcing computer jobs at GM. But spokeswoman Julie Huston-Rough said most carmakers strike a balance

between doing computer work in the company and hiring outside firms.

The company is recruiting

for people to fill jobs in software development, database management, project management and

more people in the company working on development and innovation, and integrating the tasks into GM's day-to-day business, Huston-Rough said.

The new computer center in Michigan will be housed on the grounds of GM's technical center in Warren, north of Detroit.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said in a news release that this is the first of three announcements GM will make about jobs in Michigan. The company plans to add 2,000 positions and invest up to \$300 million in the state. Huston-Rough said she did not know about additional jobs beyond the computer technology center.

The four new technology centers are separate from a GM plan under way to consolidate 23 global data centers into two. The consolidation aims to cut costs and increase speed and efficiency. □



**A sign stands outside Oshawa's General Motors car assembly plant in Oshawa, Ontario. General Motors said Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, it will hire as many as 1,500 workers to staff a new computer technology center in the Detroit suburb of Warren, Mich. GM is shifting computer work into the company from outside firms and plans to open four new technology centers in the U.S. Last month the company announced it would hire 500 people for a center in Austin, Texas.**

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Michelle Siu)

on college campuses and local information technology job fairs. It's look-

business analysis.

New Chief Information Officer Randy Mott wants

## UnitedHealth plans overseas growth with \$4.9B deal

**TOM MURPHY**  
AP Business Writer

UnitedHealth Group Inc. will spend about \$4.9 billion to buy a majority stake in Brazilian health benefits and care provider Amil Participacoes SA, as the largest U.S. health insurer leaps into an international market it says is primed for growth.

UnitedHealth, based in Minnetonka, Minnesota, said Monday that the deal gives it better access to a country of 200 million people where only 25 percent of the population is covered

by private health insurance. In contrast, about 78 percent of the U.S. market has private health benefits, as opposed to government coverage like Medicaid or Medicare. Amil Participacoes is the largest health insurer in Brazil, with a network of providers that includes 3,300 hospitals and 44,000 doctors. In addition, it also owns 22 hospitals and about 50 clinics, with most of its business is concentrated in the country's two largest cities, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The company

reported \$4.45 billion in revenue last year.

UnitedHealth said Brazil, which has the world's sixth largest economy, is promoting private sector care to relieve pressure on its publicly funded system. The number of people covered by private health insurance has climbed 35 percent since 2005 to nearly 48 million last year. "Its growing economy, emerging middle class and progressive policies toward managed care make it a high potential growth market," UnitedHealth CEO

Stephen J. Hemsley said in a statement.

UnitedHealth currently operates in 70 countries, and its services include expatriate coverage for people living outside their home countries. But company spokesman Don Nathan said it had only a "very small" presence in Brazil before this deal. UnitedHealth will pay cash for about 90 percent of the outstanding shares of Amil Participacoes SA, and it has an option to buy the remaining 10 percent after five years. □

Mutts



6 Chix



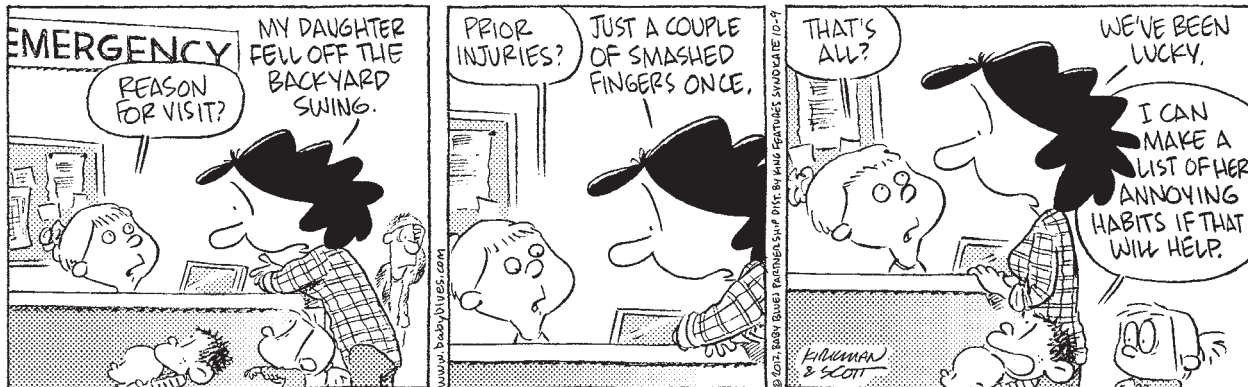
Blondie



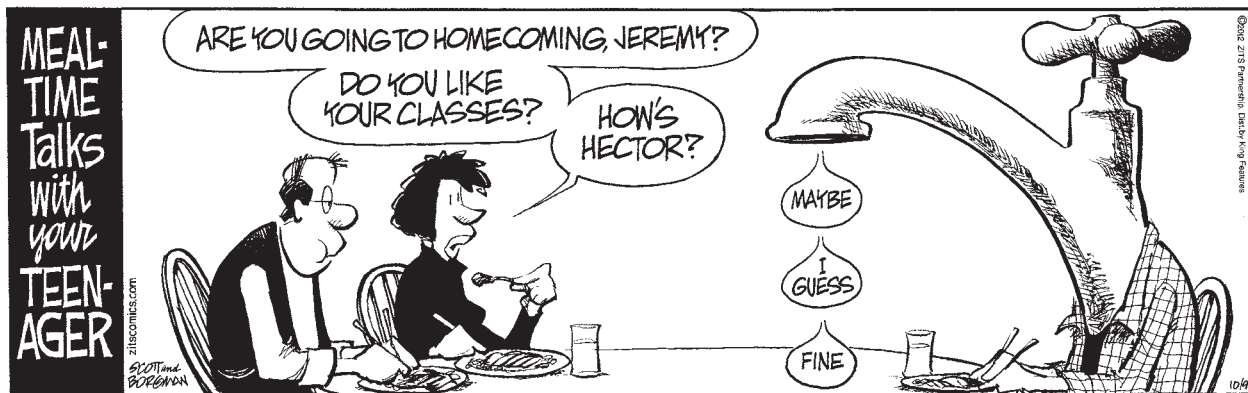
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				2	7			9	8
		7					2		5
	6		4					3	
	4						7		
8				3					2
	2							1	
	9				5			4	
1		5					6		
2	3		9	7					

Difficulty Level ★★

10/09

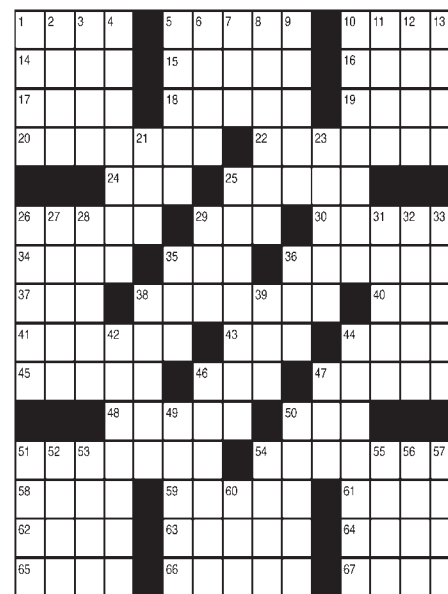
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	4	1	9	5	3	6	8	7
5	6	7	2	8	1	9	4	3
8	9	3	6	7	4	5	1	2
4	2	8	3	9	7	1	5	6
9	3	6	5	1	2	8	7	4
1	7	5	8	4	6	2	3	9
6	1	2	4	3	5	7	9	8
3	5	9	7	2	8	4	6	1
7	8	4	1	6	9	3	2	5

ACROSS

- 1 Unsightly growth  
5 Pierces  
10 Boston — chowder  
14 Again  
15 Aviator  
16 Tramp  
17 Ignoramus  
18 Licorice-like flavoring  
19 In the sack  
20 Sudden  
22 Pollywog  
24 Type; sort  
25 Local —; small town resident  
26 Chopped-down tree remains  
29 Two and eight  
30 Leg bone  
34 Melody  
35 Sheep's cry  
36 Actress Annette  
37 Major TV network  
38 Funeral attendee  
40 Athlete Fouts  
41 Actor Grammer  
43 Old horse  
44 Trait transmitter  
45 Build  
46 Title for House members: abbr.  
47 Wyman and Seymour  
48 Rowed  
50 Unhappy  
51 Baltimore team  
54 Listless; dull  
58 Nincompoop  
59 Fibromyalgia symptoms  
61 Sicilian volcano  
62 British peer  
63 Destroys  
64 20th-century U.S. president  
65 Night twinkler  
66 Sloppy  
67 Oxford or loafer
- DOWN
- 1 Stream bed  
2 Shortly  
3 Communists  
4 Betray, as a lover  
5 Punish  
6 Slight coloring  
7 Muhammad —  
8 Capital of Massachusetts  
9 T-bone, for one  
10 Silent film star  
11 Charlie —  
12 Gray wolf  
13 Cain's brother  
14 Pie à la —  
21 Mont Blanc, for one  
23 Discourage  
25 Longed  
26 At —; being risked  
27 Yam or potato  
28 — Sam; U.S. government  
29 Greek "T"  
31 VP Joe —  
32 Ridiculous  
33 Ms. Moorehead  
35 Lad  
36 Plead  
38 Copper or tin  
39 Siesta  
42 Child's vehicle  
44 Gizmos  
46 Save from danger  
47 Winter month: abbr.  
49 Provide with fresh weapons  
50 Impudent  
51 Likelihood  
52 Drive out  
53 Actress Chase  
54 Camera's eye  
55 "Beehive State"  
56 News, for short  
57 Palm tree fruit  
60 — and hers



Monday's Puzzle Solved

ACT	ABYSS	MUGS
DOES	GROPE	ASIA
DRAT	HOGAN	RSVP
DRAMATIST	TRES	
DASH	ICY	
ARTIST	CANARIES	
VIRUS	POWER	SAT
EDAM	TOWEL	ALSO
RED	COLES	STEEL
TREMBLE	NETTLE	
USE	LIAR	
TIFF	RELUCTANT	
ROOF	AWARE	COIF
AWOL	NECKS	TAKE
PALE	TRYST	HIE

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# Nobel awarded for stem cell, early cloning work

**KARL RITTER**  
**Associated Press**  
**MALCOLM RITTER**  
**Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two sci-

entists from different generations won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for the groundbreaking discovery that cells in the body can be reprogrammed into completely different kinds, work that reflects the mechanism behind cloning and offers an alternative to using embryonic stem cells. The work of British researcher John Gurdon and Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka — who was born the year Gurdon made his discovery — holds hope for treating diseases like Parkinson's and diabetes by growing customized tissue for transplant.

And it has spurred a new generation of laboratory studies into other illnesses, including schizophrenia, which may lead to new treatments.

Basically, Gurdon, 79, and Yamanaka, 50, showed how to make the equivalent of embryonic stem cells without the ethical questions those very versatile cells pose, a promise scientists are now scrambling to fulfill.

Once created, these "blank slate" cells can be nudged toward developing into other cell types. Skin cells can ultimately be transformed into brain cells, for example.

Just last week, scientists reported turning skin cells from mice into eggs that produced baby mice, a possible step toward new fertility treatments.

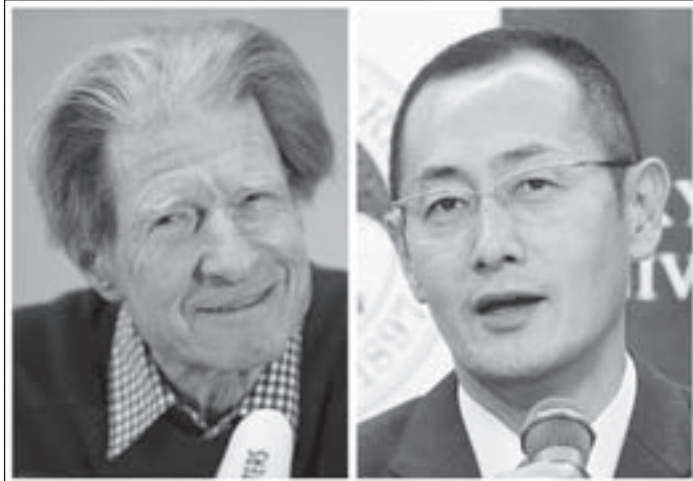
Gurdon and Yamanaka performed "courageous experiments" that challenged scientific opinion, said Doug Melton, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

"Their work shows ... that while cells might be specialized to do one thing, they have the potential to do something else," Melton said. It "really lays the groundwork for all the excitement about stem cell biology."

Another Harvard stem cell researcher, Dr. George

Daley said, "I don't think anybody is surprised" by the award announcement. "The fact that these two share it together is in-

or intestinal cells, could be used to clone more tadpoles. In 1997, the same process led to the cloning of Dolly the sheep, showing



**In this Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 photo combo, British scientist John Gurdon, left, speaks in London, and Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka, right, speaks in Kyoto after they were named winners of the 2012 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering that mature, specialized cells of the body can be reprogrammed into stem cells — a discovery that scientists hope to turn into new treatments.**

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham, left; Kyodo News, right)

spired."

In announcing the \$1.2 million award, the Nobel committee at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute said the work has "revolutionized our understanding of how cells and organisms develop." Gurdon showed in 1962 that DNA from specialized cells of tadpoles, like skin

it would also work in mammals.

Gurdon told reporters in London that at the time of his discovery, it had "no obvious therapeutic benefit at all. ... It was almost 50 years before the value — the potential value — of that basic scientific research came to light."

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[illegible]

# Brooks, Yearwood hail Songwriters Hall inductees

**CHRIS TALBOTT**  
AP Music Writer

**NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)**

— Kim Williams hesitated only slightly when asked who he thinks has been the best interpreter of his songs before the start of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "That's tough, but I'd say it would have to be Garth Brooks because I wrote them with him," Williams said. "He was part of the songs, too, before he sang them. We had so much fun writing together." They had a load of fun together Sunday night, too. Brooks and his wife Trisha Yearwood were on hand to help celebrate this year's inductees — Williams, Tony Arata, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Larry Henley. Brooks saluted Williams and Arata, while Yearwood paid tribute to Carpenter and Henley, the writer of



Trisha Yearwood is accompanied by her husband, Garth Brooks, as she sings "Wind Beneath My Wings," a song written by Larry Henley, as Henley is inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

the enduring hit "The Wind Beneath My Wings."

"Over 200 artists have recorded 'The Wind Beneath My Wings,' so it's kind of

how do you do a new twist?" Yearwood said before the ceremony. "And with Chapin, I've just known her a long, long time, so it

was a no-brainer when she asked me. It's the Garth and Trisha show and we're just going to have a good time."

Brooks sang "New Way To Fly," "Papa Loved Mama" and "Three Wooden Crosses" to Williams during a moving and hilarious induction speech, then sang Arata's "The Dance." The appearance comes a year after Brooks' own induction.

"I cried the whole time and I'm going to cry all night tonight, too, but now it's for one of your brothers," Brooks said. "I think I'm more excited for Kim and Tony going in. For me it's long overdue."

I was thinking about Kent Blazy, and I wonder where his face is. I think it's only a matter of time for him, too. These are the guys I grew up with. They moved here at the same time and

we're all brothers."

Marc Cohn also helped pay tribute to Carpenter, who noted she's just the 14th female inductee among 188 hall of fame members.

"And that feels like an honor in and of itself," Carpenter said beforehand. "I know that I stand on a lot of shoulders just to get to this place. I'm just so happy."

The Nashville Songwriters Association International also gave out its yearly songwriting awards. Taylor Swift won the songwriter/artist of the year award for the fifth time in six years and remains at 22 that award's youngest winner. Dallas Davidson was named songwriter of the year.

And Dolly Parton's enduring hit "I Will Always Love You," which reached No. 1 again this year after Whitney Houston's death, was named song of the year. □

## Welcome to Wellington, NZ — make that Middle-earth



This graphic released Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 by Wellington City Council shows a logo designed by Daniel Reeve, an artist who worked on the cartography and calligraphy for "The Hobbit" trilogy.

Associated Press

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)** — Call it hobbit fever.

New Zealand's capital is preparing for the world premiere of the opening film in "The Hobbit" trilogy by showcasing an artisan festival selling all manner of small-folk paraphernalia, laying a red carpet that will extend 500 yards through

central Wellington and even renaming the city itself after the trilogy's fictional setting of Middle-earth. Wellington is planning to spend 1.1 million New Zealand dollars (\$900,000) to mark the Nov. 28 premiere of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" at the Embassy Theatre. □

## Danny DeVito, Rhea Perlman split

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Danny DeVito and Rhea Perlman are breaking up.

A spokesman for DeVito says the couple is separating after 30 years of marriage. Publicist Stan Rosenfield offered no other details.

DeVito and Perlman married in 1982 and have three adult children. The couple worked together on TV's "Taxi" from 1978 to 1982.

Together, the couple established the production company Jersey Films, which counts "Pulp Fiction," "Erin Brockovich" and "Out of Sight" among its credits.

DeVito stars in TV's "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." Perlman is best known for her long-running role on "Cheers." □



This Oct. 29, 2008 file photo shows actors Danny DeVito, left, and Rhea Perlman attending the opening night of the 23rd Annual Israel Film Festival at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Associated Press



In this May 25, 2010 publicity image released by Discovery Channel, adventurer Bear Grylls is shown at Mount Borradaile in Australia's north-western Arnhemland during filming of the series, "Man vs. Wild."

Associated Press

## Bear Grylls making competition series for NBC

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bear Grylls will soon have some company on his in-the-wild adventures.

NBC said Monday that it is making a competition series with Grylls.

He is the former star of Discovery's "Man vs. Wild" series that tested his survival skills in foreboding settings. The NBC series, "Get Out Alive," is planned for airing next summer.

In it, Grylls will guide two teams in adventures. He says competitors will learn survival skills and teamwork but will have to suffer some pain before being rewarded in the end.

Grylls is co-producing the series with Electus, the studio run by former NBC entertainment chief Ben Silverman.

### CNN starting film unit

**NEW YORK (AP)** — CNN says it is starting a new unit to make feature-length documentaries to show both on television and in movies theaters.

Its first project, "Girl Rising," tells the story of several girls fighting tough odds to achieve their dreams. It features voiceovers by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Kerry Washington and Selena Gomez. Richard Robbins, who made the wartime documentary "Operation Homecoming," will direct it.

CNN said Monday that "Girl Rising" will premiere next spring.

The network, which is searching for ideas to turn around flagging ratings, said the films will air several times on CNN and be accompanied by on-air discussions.

### Girls' star Lena Dunham gets 7-figure book deal

**NEW YORK (AP)** — "Girls" creator Lena Dunham has a seven-figure book deal with Random House.

The 26-year-old Dunham, who received Emmy nominations as producer, director, writer and actor for the HBO comedy, has an agreement for the essay collection "Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's Learned."

"In the tradition of Helen Gurley Brown, David Sedaris and Nora Ephron, Dunham's book will offer frank and funny advice on everything from sex to eating to traveling to work," Random House said in an announcement Monday. Dunham said in statement that she was eager "to produce the most thoughtful and personal book" she could.

Random House spokeswoman Theresa Zoro said that no publication date has been set.

Numerous publishers bid for the book. □



This film image released by DreamWorks Animation shows the character Jamie, voiced by Dakota Goyo, left, as he awakens to find The Guardians, from second left, Tooth, voiced by Isla Fisher, Jack Frost, voiced by Chris Pine, North, voiced by Alec Baldwin, Sandman, and Bunnymund, voiced by Hugh Jackman in a scene from "Rise of the Guardians." The 3-D computer-generated fantasy tale is based on William Joyce's book series, "The Guardians of Childhood."

Associated Press

## Dreaming up Sandman for 'Rise of the Guardians'

**DERRIK J. LANG**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**GLENDAL, Calif. (AP)** —

Within the dimly lit halls of DreamWorks Animation, past the character sketches lining the walls, inside the eccentrically decorated cubicles and offices is where a group of designers, animators and special effects gurus have spent the past four years bringing life to the Sandman.

The dream-inducing folkloric figure, whose roots sprouted from European fairytales, is among the immortal icons featured in the 3-D computer-generated fantasy tale "Rise of the Guardians," based on William Joyce's charming book series, "The Guardians of Childhood."

The bubbly Buddha-like appearance of the film's Sandman, is remarkably faithful to Joyce's illustrations. Yet creating a three-dimensional, wispy-haired Sandman with oh-so-magical powers provided several technical challenges that many of DreamWorks' animation pros had never tackled.

"He is a very different kind of character," said production designer Patrick Hanenberger of the char-

acter probably best known from Pat Ballard's timeless 1954 song. "He is short. He is round. His body looks like it is made out of marzipan, and his hair looks like cotton candy. He is not someone who looks like he is as powerful as he is in our story, but he is the most magical of all the Guardians — and he does not speak."

"Rise of the Guardians," which premieres Wednesday at the Mill Valley Film Festival near San Francisco and is set to debut nationwide Nov. 21, centers on a carefree Jack Frost (voiced by Chris Pine) joining an Avengers-style team of mythical figures who work together to protect the world's children with their assortment of powers and gadgets.

Frost can command wintry elements with a magical staff, but he's invisible to everyone else in the world except the other Guardians. He teams up with a mighty Santa Claus (Alec Baldwin) covered in tattoos, a speedy Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman) with a chip on his shoulder, an overly enthusiastic birdlike Tooth Fairy (Isla Fisher) and the silly Sandman.

When it came to convey

Sandman's personality, the heavy lifting fell to the animators and effects gurus because the character stays totally quiet. He communicates only through facial expressions and body language, as well as with his nifty ability to craft imagery out of sand. (For example, when he's puzzled, a sandy question mark unravels over his noggin.) Instead of launching head-first into production, the filmmakers spent several months simply conceptualizing the Guardians, paying particular attention to the amorphous Sandman. How would he look? What are his powers? How would he move? Gabe Hordos, the film's head of character animation, thought the extra time in the sand box ended up being a dream.

"We often get stuck with this problem where, as animators come on, we have many ideas that kind of pollute the main idea," he said. "Because we had nine months before we started production, we were able to iron stuff down, so once we started, we had a great idea about the characters. They changed a little less, and we played their arcs more subtly." □

# The Cancer Lobby



**NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**  
© 2012 New York Times

Who knew that carcinogens had their own lobby in Washington?

Don't believe me? Just consider formaldehyde, which is found in everything from nail polish to kitchen countertops, fabric softeners to carpets. Largely because of its use in building materials, we breathe formaldehyde fumes when we're inside our homes.

Just one other fact you should know: According to government scientists, it causes cancer.

The chemical industry is working frantically to suppress that scientific consensus – because it fears “public confusion.” Big Chem apparently worries that you might be confused if you learned that formaldehyde caused cancer of the nose and throat, and perhaps leukemia as well.

The industry's strategy is to lobby Congress to cut off money for the Report on Carcinogens, a 500-page consensus document published every two years by the National Institutes of Health, containing the best information about what agents cause cancer. If that sounds like shooting the messenger, well, it is.

“The way the free market is supposed to work is that you have information,” said Lynn Goldman, dean of the school of public health at George Washington University. “They’re trying to squelch that information.”

The larger issue is whether the federal government should be a watchdog for public health, or a lap dog for industry. When Mitt Romney denounces President Barack Obama for excessive regulation, these are the kinds of issues at stake.

“Formaldehyde is known to be a human carcinogen,” declared the most recent Report on Carcinogens, published in 2011. Previous editions had listed it only as a suspected carcinogen, but the newer report, citing many studies of human and animal exposure to formaldehyde, made the case that it was time to stop equivocating. The chemical industry was out-

raged, because it sells lots of formaldehyde that ends up in people's homes, often without their knowledge.

“Nearly all homes had formaldehyde concentrations that exceeded guidelines for cancer and chronic irritation,” according to a 2009 survey by the California Energy Commission. The Report on Carcinogens also offended the chemical industry by listing styrene for the first time as “reasonably anticipated to be a carcinogen.” Styrene, which goes into everything from boats to shower stalls, is mostly a risk to those who work in factories where it is used, so it's less of an issue for the general public.

The chemical industry is represented in Washington by the American Chemistry Council, which is the lobbying front for chemical giants like Exxon Mobil, Dow, BASF and DuPont. Those companies should understand that they risk their reputations when they toy with human lives.

The American Chemistry Council first got its pals in Congress to order a \$1 million follow-up study on formaldehyde and styrene. Then it demanded, through a provision drafted by Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., that no money be spent on another Report on Carcinogens until the follow-up was completed – meaning a four-year delay until the next report. Stay tuned for an industry effort to slip some such provision into the next budget legislation.

Let's be clear. There is uncertainty about toxic chemicals, and it is perfectly legitimate to criticize the Report on Carcinogens. But this effort to defund the report is an insult to science and democracy alike.

Barbara K. Rimer, the chairwoman of the President's Cancer Panel, told me that there might be ways to improve the Report on Carcinogens but that it would be wrong to cut off money for it. “Without this program, there would be a gap in the protection of the public,” she said.

Last month, 76 scientists wrote a joint letter to Congress noting that the World Health Organization also listed formaldehyde as a known carcinogen, and styrene as a possible carcinogen. They defended the Report on Carcinogens as “consistent with international scientific consensus.”

“The American Chemistry Council is working to delay and ultimately destroy” the Report on Carcinogens, the scientists wrote.

The chemical council declined to speak to me on the record. It has a long record of obfuscation, borrowing the same strategies that the tobacco industry used to delay regulation of cigarettes. □



# Don't Mess With Big Bird



**CHARLES M. BLOW**  
© 2012 New York Times

Mitt Romney's Big Bird swipe during Wednesday's debate raised some hackles: PBS', many on social media and mine.

Romney told the debate moderator, Jim Lehrer:

“I'm sorry, Jim. I'm going to stop the subsidy to PBS. I'm going to stop other things. I like PBS. I love Big Bird. I actually like you, too. But I'm not going to – I'm not going to keep on spending money on things to borrow money from China to pay for it.”

Those are fighting words. Social media, and others, exploded in Big Bird's defense.

PBS itself issued a tersely worded statement Thursday, saying: “Governor Romney does not understand the value the American people place on public broadcasting and the outstanding return on investment the system delivers to our nation. We think it is important to set the record straight and let the facts speak for themselves.”

Exactly! What they said! Big Bird is the man. He's 8 feet tall. He can sing and roller skate and ride a unicycle and dance. Can you do that, Mr. Romney? I'm not talking about your fox trot away from the facts. I'm talking about real dancing. Since 1969, Big Bird has been

the king of the block on “Sesame Street.” When I was a child, he and his friends taught me the alphabet and the colors and how to do simple math.

Do you know how to do simple math, Mr. Romney? Maybe you and the Countess Von Backward could exchange numbers.

Big Bird and his friends also showed me what it meant to resolve conflicts with kindness and accept people's differences and look out for the less fortunate. Do you know anything about looking out for the less fortunate, Mr. Romney? Or do you think they're all grouchies scrounging around in trash cans?

I know that you told Fox News this past week that you were “completely wrong” for making that now infamous 47 percent comment, but probably only after you realized that it was a drag on your poll numbers. Your initial response was to defend it as “inelegantly stated” but essentially correct. That's not good, sir. Character matters. Big Bird wouldn't have played it that way. Do you really believe that Pennsylvania Avenue is that far away from Sesame Street? It shouldn't be. Let me make it simple for you, Mr. Romney. I'm down with Big Bird. You pick on him, you answer to me.

And, for me, it's bigger than Big Bird. It's almost impossible to overstate how instrumental PBS has been in my development and instruction.

We were poor. My mother couldn't afford day care, and I didn't go to preschool. My great-uncle took care of me all day. I could watch one hour of television: PBS.

When I was preparing for college and took the ACT, there were harder reading passages toward the back of the test. Many had scientific themes –

themes we hadn't covered at my tiny high school in my rural town. But I could follow the passages' meanings because I had watched innumerable nature shows on PBS.

I never went to art or design school. In college, I was an English major before switching to mass communications. Still, I went on to become the design director of The New York Times and the art director of National Geographic magazine.

That was, in part, because I had a natural gift for it (thanks mom and dad and whatever gods there may be), but it's also because I spent endless hours watching art programs on PBS. (Bob Ross, with his awesome Afro, snow-capped mountains and “magic white,” will live on forever in my memory.)

I don't really expect Mitt Romney to understand the value of something like PBS to people, like me, who grew up in poor, rural areas and went to small schools. These are places with no museums or preschools or after-school educational programs. There wasn't money for travel or to pay tutors.

I honestly don't know where I would be in the world without PBS.

As PBS pointed out: “Over the course of a year, 91 percent of all U.S. television households tune in to their local PBS station. In fact, our service is watched by 81 percent of all children between the ages of 2-8. Each day, the American public receives an enduring and daily return on investment that is heard, seen, read and experienced in public media broadcasts, apps, podcasts and online – all for the cost of about \$1.35 per person per year.”

PBS is a national treasure, and Big Bird is our golden – um, whatever kind of bird he is.

Hands off! □

# Live from New York, it's SNL's take on the debate!



Seen on an on-set video monitor, Jason Sudeikis, left, and Jay Pharoah perform as Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama during a dress rehearsal for Saturday Night Live's "Cold Opening: Debate" in New York, Oct. 6, 2012.

(Karsten Moran/The New York Times)

## BILL CARTER

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All last week, Lorne Michaels, the creator and longtime executive producer of "Saturday Night Live" was working the phone trying to nail down a visit to the show from either of this year's presidential candidates. By late Friday, it looked like it wouldn't happen, at least for this last week.

But Michaels still needed star power. So he put in a call to Big Bird.

Mitt Romney had mentioned the Sesame Street character while discussing his planned cuts to financing for PBS on Wednesday, so Michaels had his writers create a Big Bird segment for the show's "Weekend Update." But executives at the Children's Television Workshop were reluctant to have their beloved character in anything that could be construed as political commentary.

After Michaels made a personal appeal to some friends at the company and let them look at the script, they signed on Friday night. Carroll Spinney, the only actor to play Big Bird since 1969, was told to get his 8-foot yellow-feathered costume ready.

"There's always all this swirl," Michaels said, describing the buildup to the

show, "and then you're fighting to get Big Bird on the phone."

Political season is high-anxiety season for "SNL," which even in the age of Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert is known for its definitive parodies of political debates. That includes Phil Hartman as Bill Clinton promoting his record in Arkansas ("Just this year we passed Mississippi to become 41st in the prevention of rickets"), Dana Carvey as both George H.W. Bush and Ross Perot, and a 2000 debate between a pedantic Al Gore and an addled George W. Bush, in which each offered one-word summaries of their campaigns, "lockbox" and "strategy."

Michaels and NBC, usually very protective about the process of putting together "SNL," allowed access to the show's writers, stars and rehearsals this week as they prepared their debate sketch. Pointing to the more than 70 million people who watched the actual debate, Michaels said, "How else can you get anything that can play as comedy where everyone has seen it?"

But the debate itself turned out to be a challenge. There were no big gaffes or obvious springboards for comedy. Instead, the first

debate of this election offered up a blizzard of policy details and a lackluster performance from President Barack Obama.

At home Wednesday night, Seth Meyers, one of the show's head writers, watched with increasing concern.

"It's boring enough when they're talking about all this

saying: 'You must be really happy, there's so much in this debate. This is writing itself.' I was like: What debate are you watching?"

The job of turning the debate into comedy gold fell to Jim Downey, the long-time "SNL" writer who has created the show's debate parodies since the 1970s. This one, he said, was the hardest he had ever dealt with.

"I can never remember one that didn't have something," said Downey, who watched the debate by himself at home. "Some kind of thing that was odd or weird." Wednesday night and throughout Thursday, Michaels exchanged emails with Downey, getting the gist of his idea that Obama would be distracted by the fact that he had forgotten to buy his wife an anniversary present. Downey's genius, Michaels said, was summed up in his 2000 sketch that featured the word "strategy."

"Bush didn't say it, but people think he did," he said.

Michaels also watched the post-debate coverage on MSNBC where the hosts

ble car accident," he said. Sensing another opportunity, he discussed it with the show's writers, who, like Michaels, occupy a warren of offices on the eighth floor at 30 Rockefeller Center.

Downey, working mostly alone at home on his initial drafts, which he dictates by phone to his assistant, continued to ponder how to create the main debate sketch. By Friday afternoon, when the first run-through was scheduled, the script still was not complete.

"This was the toughest assignment I've ever had on one of these," he said later. By late Friday evening, the performers – Jay Pharoah as Obama, and Jason Sudeikis as Mitt Romney – were able to do a partial run-through so that directors and producers could at least work on the staging.

Michaels, with a still unfinished sketch on his hands, was toying with opening the show with an MSNBC sketch, even though chronologically it would have happened after the debate. Meyers and the co-head writer Colin Jost stood in front of a run-through of the MSNBC sketch during dress rehearsal, taking notes. Before the live show, an entire character, Ed Schultz, played by Bobby Moynihan, had been cut, and a new joke for Chris Matthews about Obama needing a Mike Tyson face tattoo for the next debate had been added.

In the late afternoon, Downey was still agonizing. Worried that his initial idea about the anniversary present was not enough, he had added a voice-over in which Obama describes the effects of altitude sickness, which Gore had suggested on Current TV was responsible for Obama's debate performance. Downey wanted to have Obama stagger through the line "must ... hang ... on ... for Michelle," based on how Superman is typically portrayed in comic books reacting to Kryptonite.

"I have to admit it," Downey said. □



From left: Bobby Moynihan, Kate McKinnon, and Kenan Thompson perform during a dress rehearsal for Saturday Night Live's "MSNBC Debate Fallout" sketch in New York, Oct. 6, 2012. Long-time SNL writer Jim Downey said the first presidential debate of this election was the most difficult one to turn into comedy.

(Karsten Moran/The New York Times)

and how it will affect Americans, but when you're sitting there trying to pull comedy out of it, it's really bad," Meyers said. "There were people on Twitter

Chris Matthews and Ed Schultz reacted strongly to the president's weak performance.

"Rachel Maddow looked like she had just seen a terri-